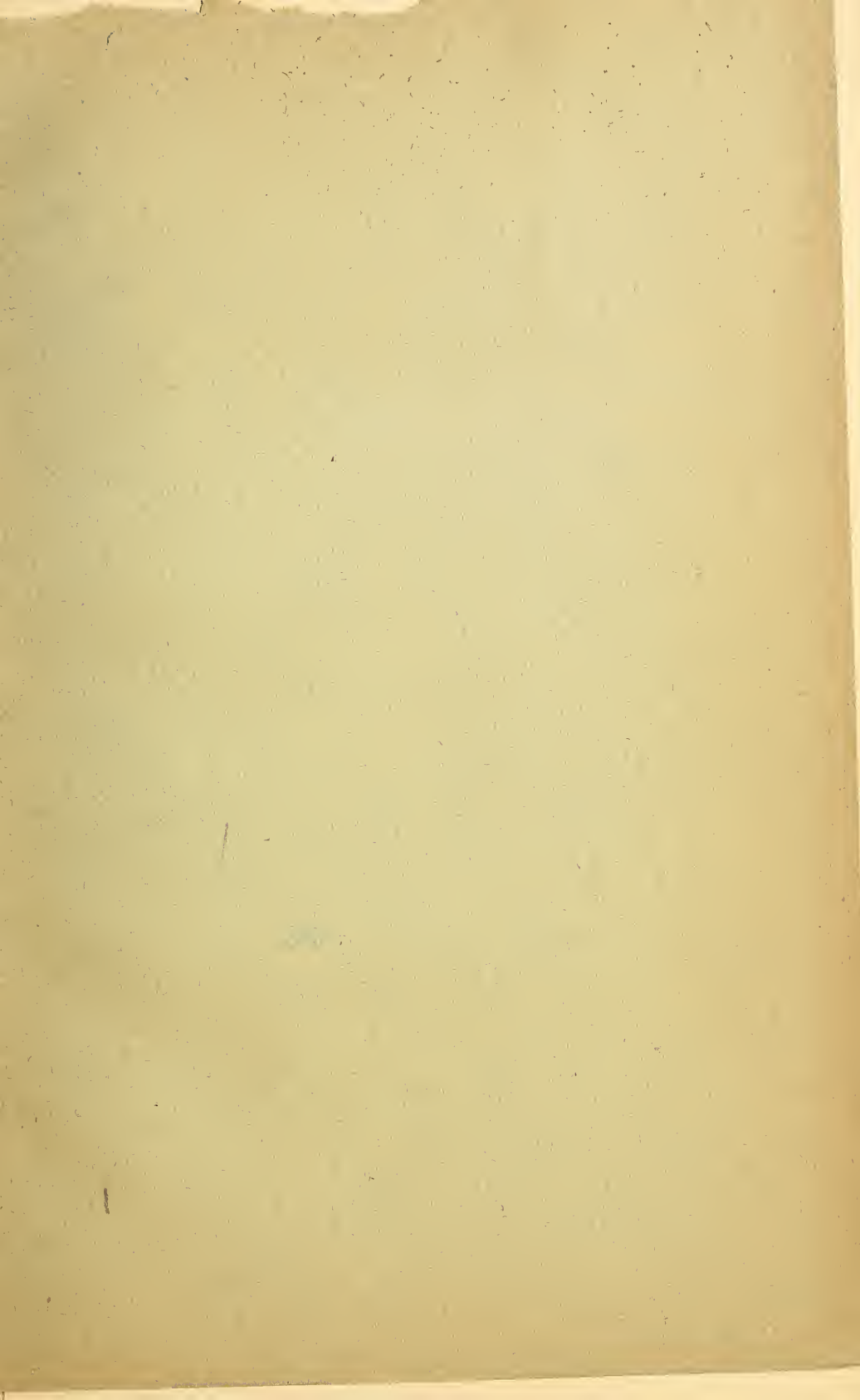




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FROM 1573 TO 1650

(Continued from page 60)

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ABSTRACTS OF THE WILLS OF THE MATHER FAMILY,
PROVED IN THE CONSISTORY COURT AT
CHESTER FROM 1573 TO 1650.

SAMUEL CLARK, in his account of "The Life and Death of Mr Richard Mather who dyed Anno Christi 1669," says:—"Richard Mather was born in a Village called Lowton, situate in the Parish of Winwick in the County of Lancaster, Anno Christi 1596. His parents Thomas and Margaret Mather were of ancient families in Lowton aforesaid; but by reason of some unhappy Mortgages, they were reduced into a low condition in regard to their outward estate."

Much has been written about Richard Mather and his descendants; but very little is known of his forefathers, who were probably resident in Lancashire for several centuries, as the name occurs in early documents as Madur, Madowr, &c. The family does not appear to have been of sufficient importance socially to attract the attention of the Heralds at their visitations, although Cotton Mather states that the armorial bearings of his family were *Ermine, on a fesse wavy Azure three lions rampant Or*; Crest:—*On the trunk of a tree lying fesseways Vert, a lion sejant Or*; bearings which are also attributed to Madder of the County of Stafford in Burke's "General Armory."

It was with a view of adding something to the family history of the Mathers that, a number of years ago, I made a series of genealogical abstracts from the wills at Chester, in conjunction with the late Mr. Charles Bridger; and the abstracts then made have been recently supplemented by others made by Mr. William Fergusson Irvine of Birkenhead, thus forming a complete series from the year 1573 to the year 1650. Unfortunately these wills do not, so far as I am aware, increase our knowledge of Richard Mather's ancestry, but they may help to bring some new facts to light from other sources; and in the hope that this will be the case I offer them to the New-England Historic Genealogical Society. For the same reason I will allude to the marriage of Ralph Rylands, then of Westhoughton, but afterwards of Culcheth in the parish of Winwick, yeoman (who died in November, 1633), and Mary Mather of

the parish of Winwick, which was solemnized at Deane Church, 25 May, 1613 (Transcripts at Chester). This Mary, in her will, proved at York 20 November, 1645, desires "to bee buried at my parishe Church of Winwicke in my ancestors buriall [place] and neare unto Raphe Rylandes my late husband"; and I have very little doubt that she was a relative, probably a near one, of Richard Mather, the "Pilgrim Father," because her place of burial suggests that she was one of the Lowton Mathers, and also because her husband, being a man well-to-do in the world, would be likely to choose his wife from the better educated branch of the Mather family. Their third son Ralph, who was born in 1622, was living with Henry Mather at Culcheth in 1641, and, on 19 May, 1644, he married Alice Mather at the chapel of Newchurch in Winwick parish; Alice was, perhaps, Henry's daughter, and a relative of her husband.

It is also worth noting that Margaret Byrom, of Lowton, widow of Henry Byrom, in her will, dated 18 April, 1648, mentions her son Henry, her sister Jane Green, her sister Anne, wife of Roger Bate, and her brother Richard Mather.

An entry in Warrington Parish Registers of the baptism, on 9 December, 1610, of "Christian, daughter of George Mather, Gent.," shows that the wills at Chester do not give all the contemporary information that could be desired. Probably, when the Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire carries out its intention of printing the early Marriage Licences, which begin in the year 1608, we shall know more of the history of the Mathers of Lowton and their alliances, and so obtain a clue which will lead us to other fields for investigation.

Elleanor Mather, of Ince, near Wigan, Widow, 1573.

xiii. daie of August 1573. I ELIANOR MATHER widowe, being sicke & weake in bodie, but praised bee god of good & perfecte Remembrance, do make this my laste will & testament in mannere & forme following—firstlie & cheefflie I bequeath my soule into the hands of Almightye God, etc—my bodie to be buried in my Parishe Church as nighe to my late husband as may conveniently be done. And as for my worldie goodes which God etc. Firstly. I bequeath unto my sonne Chröfer Mather my best fether bedde & bolstar, one pillowe & one matteresse belonginge to said bedde, one cou'let [coverlet] etc etc. & one panne of pewter. Item. I give unto Adam Bancke all the corne nowe growing in the higher heye & my plows & harrowe, one of my hoggs, & halfe a bushell of malte & a wyndle of meale. Item: I give unto my god daughter Elian^r Bancke one acre of ote [oats] growinge in the Emmefeld. Unto my daughter Elizabeth Penningtū one other acre and to Xpofer Bancke & Thomas Bancke, one other acre with corne. Item: I give unto my saide sonne Chrofer Mather three of my eldest kyne, & the rest of my kye & cattel I give unto the saide Elian^r Bancke. Item. To Jenitt Laythwatt one payre of shets one cou'let & one Blanckett. All the rest of my householde stuffs & implements I give unto the said Elen Bancke. Small bequests to William Cartwrighte & John Burscoughe. My bedgowne & best hatte to my dau. Elizabeth Penyngtū. Item: To

Richard Reyner & John Michell vi yardes of flaxen clothe, and to the children of Chrofer Mather vi yardes of the same clothe. Item: I give unto S^r Raufe Stotte, clerke xiii^s. iiiii^d. and to S^r Thomas Baron iii^s. iiiii^d. I ordaine & make my said sonne Chrofer Mather & Adam Bancke the Executor of this my laste Will & Testament. Overseers. James Bradshaw & Roger Hyndeley unto whom I give iii^s. iiiii^d. apeece.

Witnesses: James Bradshawe
Roger Hyndley
Robert Gerrarde withe others.

Hec sunt debit q. mihi debent

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Imprimis: | Richarde Houghton | x ^s . |
| Item | William Haddocke | v ^s . |
| " | John Higham | xix ^d . |
| " | John Burscoughe | vi ^s . viii ^d . |
| " | William Man | viii ^d . |
| " | John Laythwatt for rente. | v ^s . |
| " | Olyu' [Oliver] Mañ | ii ^s . vii ^d . |
| " | John Molyneux | iv ^s . |

A true inventorie of all goodes etc of Elianor Mather of Ince. Praised by John Hyndley, William Ince, Rauffe Perpoynne & Jas. Morrys, taken 23 August 1573.

| | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|--|
| Item. | corne in the felde | [?] |
| Item. | iii acres of ote in emmefelde | iiii ^{li} . |
| Item. | one acre of barlie pease & ote | xxvi ^s . ix ^d . |
| | etc etc. Summa Totalis | xli ^{li} . x ^s . ii ^d . |
| Item. | I owe unto William Molyneux | iii ^s . iiiii ^d . |

[on dorso is written]. Expences at the buriall & the p'bat of the tistament.

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| Item.— | paide for a mortuary | _____ |
| Item.— | paid unto the prests clarks & for other charges at the burialle | } xlix ^s . viii ^d . |
| Item: | paide for provinge of the will. | |

Proved 6 Sept. 1573, by Adam Banks.

Richard Mather, of Orford, near Warrington, 1576.

In the name of God Amen.—the twentieth daie of April in ye yeare of our Lorde God etc etc one thousand five hundred & seventy-sixe—I RICHARD MATHER, of Orforthe in the parish of Warringtñ in the Countie of Lancastre husbandman doe make this etc.—leaves his bodie to be buried “in the Parish Church or churcheyarde” [of Warrington] “at the descrescion of my executors & friends.” After payment of debts & funeral expenses his property to be divided “equallie betweene Ellyn my loveinge wyfe, Henry my son & Jane Mather my daughter” “and the saide children & goodes to be at the rule & gou'mente of the saide Ellyn my weyfe untill they come to bee of lawfull yeres of descrescion” “if either of my children die in their minoritie,” share to be “equallie divided between my wyfe & the othere childe.” Henry & Jane my said children to be Executors. “William Ashton gentleman, & Thomas Mather my brother” appointed “ou'seers for ye true execution of this my laste will & Testament.”

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Witnesses : | W ^m Ashton. | Lawrence Clerk. |
| | Thos Mather. | Seth Lawton. |
| | Hamlet owen. | John Ashton. |
| | John Erlam. | with others. |

Hec sunt debit que ego pred^{ts} Richardus Mather debeo.

Imprimis : I owe to Thomas Penkethman of Warrington } iiiij mke [marks]
 iiiij barrelles of heringe

Hec sunt debetaque mihi debentur.

Imprimis : Hughe Leche of Avonley [Alvanley] in the
 Countie of Chester husbandm for lynnem
 clothe of me had & boughte the summe of xliij^s. viii^d.

Item : John Page of Warrington oethe me for sackecloth xx^s.

Item : Richarde Lyon & James finche
 suertie to me for him. xxliij^s.

Item : John Bolton of Robae [Roby] oethe
 me for clothe to this daie liv^s.

Item : George Paynter of Newton ii^s. vi^d.

Item : John Sadler of Warrington xxvii^s.

Item : Rob^t Spencer of Warrington iv^s. vi^d.

Item : Oliu' Southworth xxvi^s. viii^d.

Item : M^{res} Sibell Burche, widowe iii^s.

Item : Randle Yate oethe me iv^s. viii^d.

Item : Ellis ap John xvii^s.

Item : M^r Bailiffe of Werington iii^s. ix^d.

Item : John Owen oethe me v^s.

Item : Edmund Griffye als Ivie [?] xx^s.

Item : Hughe Stirrop of Newton oethe me &
 M^r Bailiffe suertie for the half thereof xviii^s. ix^d.

Item : James Hanes [?] of Budworth P^{ris}he vii^s.

Item : The Executors or Adminst of W^m Hulme
 late of Wortonwood iv^s.

Item : Edmund Wrightm unpayde in
 parte for clothes [cloths] xv^s.

Inventorie praised 29 April [1576] by Robert Holbroke, Thomas
 Smyth, John Clarke, & Seathe Lawton.

Summa totalis clxvii^{li}. xvii^s. vi^d.

Roger Mather, of Leigh, Lancashire, 1582.

ROGER MATHER of the Parish of Leigh, 3 March 1582. To be buried
 at Leigh.* Wife Katherine. "To litle Roger Mather one great brasse
 potte." My 5 children. Exors, Wm Boydell, & James Mather my son.
 Witnesses : James Corlesse, Edward Corlesse John Holcroft Junr.

The debts mention :—

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| My son Henry Mather, | John Batesbie, |
| Edward Flitcroft, | Wm. Risleye, |
| James Halle, | Jas Corlesse, |
| My daur Ann Mather, | Wm Boydell, |
| Jhoane Boydell, | Nicholas Mosse, |
| Oumffraye Birchshooe [Birchall], | Wm. Bayrume, [Byrom] |
| Geoffrey Strange, | John Holcroft. |

* He was buried at Leigh church, 5th March, 1581-2. (Stanning's Parish Registers of Leigh, 1558-1625).

Inventory by John Mosse, Roger Flitcrofte, James Corlesse, Wm. Moyle, £10..9..7. Proved 24 April, 1582.

Symond Mather, of West Leigh, Lancashire, 1588.

SYMOND MATHER of Westleigh,* yeoman, 18 April 30 Eliz. [1588] Was old. To be buried in the middle of the parish Church of Leigh in the accustomed burial place of my predecessors. My son Jeffrey Mather. My 2 maidservants Isabel, & Margaret Mather. My 2 children Jeffrey & Robert Mather. My sons in law John Partington of Tyldesley, James Haughton, William Liptrotte, & Jas. Moñe [Mann]. Rich^d Arrowsmith of Leigh mentioned. In the entail are Edward, Henry, John, Nicholas, & Richard, sons of my son in law James Haughton, of Arburie. There is also in the entail Anne wife of James Scarisbricke of Downholland. Exors, Sons in law James Haughton of Arburie & William Liptrott of West Leigh. Supervisors, the worshipful Mr James Scarisbricke of Down Holland gent, & John Partington & James Moñe of Tyldesley my sons in law Witnesses: Richard Arrowsmyth, John Mather, Jarvice Lowe.

Debts name:—Richard Geste, Nicholas Mather, Symond Mather, Margaret Mather, John Pinnington, John Partington son in Law.

Inventory by Hugh Hinley, George Hurste, Robert Arrowsmyth, & Symond Bradshaugh, 26 April 1588, £120: 32: 8. [sic]. Proved 30 April 1588.

Richard Mather, of Hulton, 1593.

RICHARD MATHER, of Lowest Hulton, in the parish of Deane within the Co. of Lancaster, 8 Aug^t 1593. My bodie to the earth whereof yt was made & the same to bee buried at my p'ishe Church of Deane. Debts paid remainder to be divided into three parts. One part I to have myself, the seconde parte to Annes my wyff, the third part to Mrgreat Partington my daughter. Reversion of my part equally Emongs Raphe, Ellyn & Ales p'tington my daughter Margreat her children at the sight of my Executors. After my Lease w^{ch} I have from Mr William Wartton of Wartton Hall be expired my good will thereof to my daughter Margreat her children to wyte [wit] Raphe Partington and for want of hym to Ellen Partington for want of her to Alise Partington naturall† systers to the s^d Raphe. Executors:—Annes Mather my wyff & Thomas Eccarselaie [Eckersley] my brother in law. Debts which I the Testator do owe.

Item to the right worshipfull Mr Raphe Ashtonn
of great lever

xxvj^s. viij^d.

Item to James Crompton of Lostock

xj^s.

Item to Richard morres of great Boulton for flax

xxx^s.

Item to Charles p'tington my son in law

xxvj^s.

Item to the said Charles [Partington]

xj^s.

iiij^d.

Item to Thomas Eccarselay

ij^s.

xj^d.

Item to James Mather my brother

x^s.

Debts owing unto mee the Testator.

Item William Macand dwelling upon Bakersgreen being the Rev'sion of money for the prise of a mare w^{ch} I the Testator sould hym the som of xiiij^s. Witnesses Rich^d Lie [Leigh], gent Thomas Bordmann, Willm. Wartton & Thomas Wartton.

* Symon Mather was church-warden of Leigh in 1552, and he was buried there 24 April, 1588.

† Natural here means actual, and does not signify illegitimacy.

Inventory p'sed 14 Aug by Tho Hurst, James Edge Witfm Wartnn and Raphe Sweetlove.

Proved 22 Aug. 1593, by Thomas Eccarsley power reserved to Agnes the relict.

Gilbert Mather, of Adlington, Lancashire, 1593.

GILBARTE MATHER of Adlington, [in the parish of Standish] co. Lanc. drover, 19 May, 1592. My body to the earth to be layed in Christian buriall at Blackrood. To Jane Greene afs Mather bastard daughter of mee the sayed Gilbert vj^l. xij^s. iiij^d. To Cicelie Greene afs Mather, one other bastard daughter of mee the sayed Gilberte vj^l. xij^s. iiij^d. with benefit of survivorship. If both dye s^d xij^l. vj^s. viij^d. amonges three of my Children or survivors of them viz Anne Mather, Katherin Mather, and one Margaret Stones afs Mather, one other bastard Daur of mee the sayed Gilbert. To repairiage of the Church or Chappell of Blackrood. To my verie good Mr James Anderton of Lostocke Esquier my gould ringe. After Debts paid the rest amonges my children viz Raphe Mather Anne Mather Katherin Mather & the sayed Margaret Stones afs Mather my bastard daur. I make John Mather by brother, and Raynold Mather my exōrs & my verie good M^r [master] overseer. To Raphe Mather my sonne all my landes &c when 21. Profits during his minority to be taken by my Exōrs, & Tho^s Anderton, gent, & Hugh Greenhalgh for use of my said children Raphe, Anne, Katherin, and Margaret Stones afs Mather. No Witnesses.

Inventory £ 143:16:4 praised by George Allenson, Peter Mather, Robte Worthington, & John Breres.

Proved 25 Oct 1593 by John Mather, Reginald Mather having renounced.

James Mather, of Radcliffe, 1596.

3^d daie of October, 1595.—I, JAMES MATHER of the parishe of Radcliffe in the Countie of Lancaster:

My body to Parish Church or Churchyard of Radcliffe.—mentions “one house & certaine lands, which I & my wyffe & my eldest sonne Raphe Mather enjoy,” “the property which I houlde of the most worshippful my M^r and landeslorde Richard Ashton of Mydleton, Esquire.”—to be employed “for the goode education & bringing upp of my younger children untill my sayde sonne accomlishe the age of 21 years.”—mentions further —“my brother Hughe Mather his widdowe”—“John Fletcher”—“M^r Fox my Lord derbie his steward”—“Ellyn Mather my wyffe”—“my five children”—leaves to “my younge sonne Thomas Mather xl^s”—“my eldest daughter Elizabeth Mather xl^s”—“my seconde daughter Marye iii^{li}”—“my youngest daughter Ann Mather iiiij^{li}”—“My saide wyffe & my two sonnes” executors—“my brother Hughe Mather & my cosin Randle Mather overseers.”

Debts owing unto M^r James Mather amountinge to 38^{li}. 7^s. 6^d.

[*inter alia*] Item: Hughe Mather, 48^s. 7^d.

Item: Edward Tyldsley my brother-in-law, 18^s.

Item: Thomas Tyldesley my brother-in-law, 10^s.

Item: Ux Wme Mather my mother-in-law, 2^s.

Witnesses. Roberte Kenyoun, Randle Mather, Samuel Mather, Hughe Dyggle, ffranke Wrooe, scripsit.

Inventorie 14 November, 1595, by Hugh Mather, Edward Tyldsley, Ellys Walker & france[is] Wrooe.

Summa totalis cix^{li}. xvii^s. vi^d.

Proved 6th February 1595[–6].

Ralph Mather, of Radcliffe, 1597.

The 2 October, 1597. I, RAUFFE MATHER of the Parische of Radcliffe in the Countie of Lancaster, tanner—beinge sicke & weake in bodie etc. etc.—“bodie to be decentlie buried in the Parish Church yard of Radcliffe,”—property to be divided into “two equalle partes, whereof I doe reserve the one parte to my owne specialle use,”—“and as for the other part I doe hereby will & devise the same unto my several children, equallie amongst them namely, Gabriel Mather, Habraham Mather, Samuell Mather, Reynould [Reginald] Mather, & Sara Mather:” “of my owne parte I doe give to my daughter Sara iii^{li}” —“to Renould Mather iii^{li}” —“to Habraham Mather & Samuel Mather either of them xl^s apeece.” —“I alsoe give unto Samuel Mather which I am grandfather to xii^s.”

“Rest & remainder amongst aforesaid five children” —“Habraham Mather, Executor.”

Witnesses. “Hugh Mather th’ elder”

“Thomas Mather”

Dettes owinge unto said Rauffe Mather.

Imprimis: William Bowcher.

4^{li}. 9^s. 8^d.

Richarde Manchester is surtye of 40^s of the s^d monye which W^m Bowcher doth owe.

Inventorie made 7th October, 1597, by Hugh Mather, George Kerke-man, William Macant & W^m Kenion.

Summa totalis, clxxx^{li}. ii^s. vii^d.

Peter Mather, of Anderton, 1598.

In the name of God Amen—on the xiv. daie of September, Año dñi 1598.—I PETER MATHER—of Anderton in the Countie of Lancaster, yōman, sicke in bodie etc. etc.—1st I commit my soule into the hands of Almighty God etc. etc.—bodie to the earthe whence it came & as touching the disposing of such worldlie goodes etc.—divides property into 3 parts—“whereof I leave one parte unto Margaret my wyffe—another thirde parte unto Margaret Woodwarde my daughter & the other thirde part I reserve unto myselfe to dispose off at my pleasure.” —“And of my saide parte I doe give & bequeath unto Robte Rigbie my servante lii^s. iii^d.” —Item: Unto Ellyn my servante xx^s.” —Item: “unto Hugh [torn] ightgall [Nightgall] tenne shillinge.” —Item: I give unto Reynould my brother all my apparrelle & clothes for my bodie.” —Item: I give unto everie childe which I am god-fathere unto ii^s. for a Remembrance.” —Item: I give unto Margaret my grandchild x^{li}. to be employed to her best use.” —Remainder after payment of debts funeral expenses etc. equally between—“Margaret my wiffe & Margaret Woodwarde my daughter.” —“I appointe & ordaine my well-beloved wyffe Margaret & my deare friende Henerie Hodsinson my true & lawfull Executor.”

Witnesses. George Houlme.

Reynould Mather.

Dettes which I doe owe.

Imprimis: To Margaret Nightgall my cosin, iii^{li}.

Dettes owinge unto me without specialtie.

Imprimis: William Anderton Esquire, my
maister oweth me in lente

monie,

24^{li}. 6^s. 8^d.

Item: Peter Makin in lente monie,

9^s.

Item: William Platt in lente monie,

5^s. 6^d.

Summa totalis, xxv^{li}. iii^s. ii^d.

Inventorie of Peter Mather late of Anderton yeoman, praissed by Arthur Houlme, Regynald Mather, James Rivington & Robte Rothewelle 20th daie Sept. in 44 yeare of our gracious soveraigne ladie Queene Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queen of England, Scotland, France & Ireland, etc. An. dñi. 1598.

[*inter alia*] Item: Ye halfe of five scour [score] & six sheepes in the custodie of Robert Pilkington gent, x^{li}.

Sum tot—clxxxiii^{li}. xiii^s. 1^d.

The summe oweinge sett under the will is, xxv^{li}. iii^s. ii^d.

Sum tot. cc.xix. xvii^s. iii^d.

Annes Mather, of Hulton, widow, 1600.

ANNES MATHER, of Lowest Hulton, "wyddow wthin the p[']ish of Deane, 1599 [1600] 20th Januarie. Bodie to the earth to be buried at my p[']ish church of Deane. Debts paid, the residue to Thomas, John, & Margaret Farneworth &c. Apparell to the children of Charles p[']tington. Reversion of all my part of goods &c. to Charles P[']tington & Margaret his wife towards the bringing up of theyre children. And I appoint Charles p[']tington my son in law sole Exor.

Debts w^{ch} I do owe

To Margaret Mather wyddoe, xx^s.

" Ellyn P[']tington, xx^s.

Witnesses: Jas. Pendleburie, Clerk.

Ric: ffarneworth.

Thomas Eccarselaie.

Inventory of those goods w^{ch} in Right Annes Mather of Lowest Hulton wydow latelie decessed of Right had interest in trulie saide p[']plie to her in her Lyff tyme did app[']taine taken forth of Richard Mather her husband who decessed Anno Doñi 1593 vid one third ptt of the saide Inventorie of good presed devided & summed xxjth daie of Januarie & by us is prised Richard Farneworth Lambart p[']tington Roger Eccarselaie & Thomas Eccarselaie.

Md. The shapon App[ar]jell for the bodie of the decedent prised unto xxx^s.

It the pt of the goods due forth of her husband his last will & Inventorie the some of xij^{li}. xij^d. iij^d.

Proved 22 January 1599[–1600].

John Mather, of Lowton, 1601.

JOHN MATHER of Lowton 22 Apr. 1601. To be buried at Winwick. Son-in-law Richard Greisse & Agnes his wife. Son Richard and his children.

Brother Nicholas.

Dau. Ann shall have 40^s which her aunt Jane gave her.

Brother James & his son John.

Anne. Coarlles [Corless].

Exors: Richard my son, Ric. Greisse my son-in-law & Rich^d Corlles my son-in-law.

Supervisor, W^m Byrom.

Witnesses: James Crofte.

W^m Mather.

Nicholas Lythgoe.

Among debts are ment^d Symonde Mather, my sister Margaret.

Inventory, 24 April 1601, by Symonde Mather Henry Stirroppe, Ric^d
Gleover Jervesse Winterbothome. £45 18. 0.
Proved 6 May 1601.

William Mather, of Westhoughton, 1602.

WILLIAM MATHER of Westhoughton, yeoman. 8 June 44, Eliz. 1602.
To be buried at Deane. Goods divided into 2 parts—first pt to self, 2^d part
to Agnes my wife. After debts etc. paid rem. of my pt. to be divided in
4 pts:

- 1st. to Jas Anderton my brother-in-law.
 2. to Ellis my brother.
 3. to Elizabeth my sister.
 4. to Margaret Mather my brother's daur.
- To Arthur Woodward 40^s.

To Henry Woodward, David Woodward, James Woodward, Thurston
Woodward & Margaret Woodward 40^s.

To Richard Lich & his children £5.

To Agnes my wife one close of ground which I have taken of Jas Browne
of Westhoughton Esq. for her life & after her dece to Margaret Mather &
her father during life of s^d Margaret.

To Agnes my wife one close of ground for 8 years that I have taken of
Oliver Rigby—if she die before expiration of s^d term then to David
Woodward.

To s^d David Woodward the same close for 15 years after s^d lease of 8
yrs has expired.

Exors: James Enderton [Anderton?], Ellis Mather my brother &
Agnes my wife.

Witnesses, Charies Leigh, Ric^d Woodward, Henerie Rothwell.

Among debts are named—Jas Morres of Lostocke, W^m Plate, W^m
Talior of Hinley [Hindley], Christopher Harte, John Gregorie & wife,
Ric^d Gregorie, Hugh Rigby, Ric^d Woodward.

Inventory. 15 June 1602 by Jas Ma[r]kland, John Scotte, Henerie
Hampson, Jas Woodward, Chas Leigh, Ric Lithe. Mention of lands taken
of W^m Banester, Ric^d Greene, John Gregorie & Oliver Rigby.—Ric^d
Woodward.—Hugh Rigby. £102. 2. 0.

Proved 19 Ju—1602.

William Mather, of Warrington, 1603.

WILLIAM MATHER of [Conies' Corner] Warrington, Yeoman, 18 Dec^r
1602. To be buried within the parish church of Warrington. To William
Brocke, son of Rich^d Brocke of Bunbury all the goods in the closet in my
house in Warrington. Whereas I owe to the said Wm Brocke 18s. I
give him in consideration "one Whyte Bullocke about the age of two
years." To my wife Johanne Mather all my tack of ground &c. which I
hold under any persons whatsoever with all my goods chattels, &c. &c.
Exors: Johanne my wife & Richard Brocke of Bunbury my brother in law.

Witnesses: Wm. Waringe, Nycholas Bate, John Fletcher. In the debts
&c. are named, Gilb^t Hylls, John Blundell, Lawce Hallywell, Rob^t Woods,
Mercer, Edward Woodward of Eccles, Hy: Holbrocke Sen^r, Peter Ellam,
Thos. Allen.

Inventory 29 Dec. 1602 by Tho^s Mather, Thos. Richardson, John Barns
& Randull Pynyngton.

Proved 3 January 1602[-3].

Richard Mather, of Hulton, 1693.

RICHARD MATHER of Middle Hulton, 18 Oct. 1600. To be buried at Deane. Wife Elizabeth. Sons (both Exors) Henry and James.

Witnesses: Simon son of Roger Edge, John Godbear.

Debts name: John Mather and John Marshe.

Inventory 27 Sept. 1602 by Richard Edge, Symond Mather, Robert Spakeman, Ralph Higson. £46. 10. 0.

Proved 3 Feby. 1602[-3].

Gabriel Mather, of Kearsley, 1605.

In the name of God Amen. I, GABRIEL MATHER of Kersley in the Countie of Lancaster, blacksmyth, sicke in bodie etc.—leaves “bodie to be buried in y^e Parish Church of Deane.” Property into three equal parts.—“One third parte to Margaret Mather my wyffe” & “another thirde parte to my two sonnes Henry & John Mather.”—“One other thirde part I reserve unto myselfe.”

“Item—I give & bequeath unto my mother Anne [Emme?] Mather one paire of geeses.”—“To Richard Mather sonne of Thomas Mather my brother, iii^s. iiiii^d.”—“Margerie Mather my sister.”—“I give and bequeath unto the younge sonne of my brother Samuell, my godson, iii^s. iiiii^d.”—“John Howell [Hawell?] my Father in lawe.”—“Robert Granger cooke of Leaver.”—“George Woode.”

Executors: Margaret his wife & “Henerie Scolcroft of ffarnworth.”—

16th Oct. 1604.

Gabriel Mather his
mark.

Witnesses: Arthur Seddon. James Hoop. Edward Seddon. George Seddon. Thomas Greene.

Dettes owing unto testator.

[*inter alia*] John Crompton of tasker.

Alexander Crompton.

Inventorie by Thomas Dodson & Ric^d B'thwel, taken 26 October 1604.

Proved 6 June 1605 by Margaret Mather widow, the relict.

Hamlet Mather, of Radcliffe, 1609.

9 July, 1606 [or possibly 1608]. “In the name of God, Amen. I, HAMLET MATHER of the Parish of Radcliffe—being sicke & weake in bodie but praissed be God of howle & sounde mynde & always consideringe the uncertaine houre of death do make this my laste Will & Testamente in manner & forme following. Firstly and before all other thinges I doe leave my soule into the haundes of Almighty God my maker, and my bodie to be buried in the Parish Church of Radcliffe—and as for the goodes and cattels, which God hath seen fit to lende unto me, I do dispose of them as here followeth”—Divides goods in two equal parts—one he reserves to himself and the other part he leaves between his 3 “sonnes, Richard, Henry and James Mather”—to “Henerie” he leaves his “land at Radcliff Bridge.”—Small bequests to “my servante mayde Anne Mather,” my servante man W^m Harrington” and “my daughter-in-law Katherine Mather wife of Henry Mather my son.”—Mentions “Richard Mather whiche I am unkeell unto.”

Executors, his 3 sons Richard, Henry & James.

Overseers, “Bartholomew Fletcher & Randall Mather.”

Dettes which I doe owe.

[*inter alia*] Imprimis: T^o S^r Richard Asheton knight xx^{li}.

Witnesses. Hugh Allence clarke. John Whorrockes [Horrocks.]

Hugh Seddon Sen^r Samuell Mather with others.

Dettes oweinge unto me Hamlet Mather.

from James Mather, Henerie Mather, Richard Mather [probably his 3 sons], Hugh Sharpplews, Grace Dygby [or Dygly] my sister, Hamlet Sandyfourth, Francis Sharpplews, Hugh Mather.

Inventorie praised by Barthom̄ Ffletcher, Henry Walker, James Diggel of the parish of Prestwich & Hugh Seddon of the parish of Y^e Deane.—6 May 1609. Summa totalis 397^{li}. 4^s. 8^d.

Proved 15 May 1609.

Symond Mather, of Lowton, 1609.

In the name of God Amen the xxijth day of November in the yeare of o^r Lord God 1609, and in the yeare of the raigne of James Kinge of England the seaventh & of Scotland the xliijth I SYMOND MATHER of Lowton in the p^rishe of Winwick yeoman whole of mynd and sicke of body (thanked bee God) doe make my last will & Testament in mann^r & forme followinge,—ffirst I bequeath my soule to almightie God my redeemer & maker & my body to bee buried in the p^rishe Church of Winwicke or Church yard in my buriall place.—ffirst I dispose of my wourldly goods w^{ch} I am possessed of in this mann^r following.—ffirst I give to the free schoole of Winwick xx^{li} w^{ch} said some of money to be put unto the hands of the right worshiple Sr Peter Legh, Knight & to his heires to see that the vse of it bee payde to the free schoole of Winwicke for ever & if hee will not, then to returne unto my executor againe Itm I give ten pounds unto Burtonwood Chappell to bee put unto the hands of Edmund Taylier & the ou^rseers of the said Chappell & shall bynd themselves & theire heires executors, admīrators & assignes for ever to pay the vse of the same some of ten pounds unto Burtonwood Chappell to the mentinence of Gods service there for ever Itm I give unto the poor, halt, blynde, & lame twelve shurts or Smocks during the naturall lyefe of Alice my wiefe yearly—Itm I give to my servant Elizabeth Twisse xx^s. Itm I give to my servant John Twisse xx^s. Itm Ellis Cleaton [Clayton] xx^s. Itm I give to my servant Richard Mather xx^s. It I give to Thomas Robothome Curat of Winwicke vj^s. viij^d. The rest of my goods vubequeathed my debts payd my funerall expences discharged, I give unto Alice my wiefe whome I ordeyne constitute & make my trustie & wellbeloved wyfe my executrix to see my will fulfilled & satisfied in all points. Ou^rseers Tho^ms Corlies, John Banke. Witnesse hereof, John Grysse, Tho^ms Corlies, John Twisse & Thomas Robothome.

Debts oweinge unto mee Symond Mather.

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Imprimis. Tho ^m s Hurst, | xxx ^s . | |
| It John Hasleden of Goulborne, | vij ^s . | vij ^d . |
| It Tho ^m s Turner, | xlviij ^s . | |
| It Hughe Stirroppe, | vj ^{li} . vj ^s . | vij ^d . |
| It Richard Gloouer [Glover], | xl ^s . | |
| It Richard Corlies of Pinington, | xl ^s . | |
| It Wiltm Boydel of Pinington, | xxxviij ^s . | iiij ^d . |
| It Henry Sedowne [Seddon], | xxxviij ^s . | |
| It Edward Wood, | vij ^s . | |

| | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| It | John ffraunce, | | xl ^v ^s . | |
| It | John Crouchley, | | ix ^s . | |
| It | Ric. Doumbell, | iiij ^{li} . | iiij ^s . | iiij ^d . |
| It | John his sonne, | | xl ^s . | |
| It | Richard ffitchet, | | iiiij ^s . | vj ^d . |
| It | Ric. Shawe, | | xviiij ^s . | |
| It | Thoms Taylier, | | xij ^s . | |
| It | the wiefe of Ather Asheton, | | xxx ^s . | |
| It | the wiefe of Ric. Liptrot, | | xl ^s . | |
| It | Ric ffraunce, | | vj ^s . | |
| It | Thoms Boulton of Kenion, | | xlvj ^s . | viiij ^d . |
| It | Edward Parpointe, | | x ^s . | |
| It | Raphe Birche, | | ix ^s . | iiiij ^d . |
| It | Thoms Twisse, | | xl ^s . | |
| It | John Gryss, | iiij ^{li} . | xx ^s . | [sic] |
| It | Robt Grysse, | viiij ^{li} . | iiiij ^s . | |
| It | Ric. Grysse, | vij ^{li} . | | |
| It | Tho Kerfoote, | | xx ^s . | |
| It | John Ainsworth & his wife, | iiij ^{li} . | vj ^s . | |
| It | John Ridyard, | | xiiiij ^s . | |
| It | the wiefe of Charles Baxter, | | xx ^s . | |
| It | Tho Eden, | | xvij ^s . | v ^d . |
| It | Tho Ridyard of the pale, | | v ^s . | iiij ^d . |
| It | John Maddocke, | | l ^s . | |
| It | Wm Parr, | iiiij ^{li} . | | |
| It | Wm. Luther als Baines, | | xiiij ^s . | iiiij ^d . |
| It | John Widdowes, | iiij ^{li} . | | |
| It | Symond Kay, | | xxxiiij ^s . | iiiij ^d . |
| It | Nicholas Goulden, | | xx ^s . | |
| It | the wiefe of Peter Hynd, | | xxvij ^s . | |
| It | Richard Mather of Pyle dytch, | iiij ^{li} . | | |
| It | Gernice Winterbothome, | | xx ^s . | |
| It | Widdowe Wilsone of Newton, | | xij ^s . | |
| It | Raphe Wood xl ^s . upon a powne. | | | |
| It | Mr. Henry Byrom, | iiij ^{li} . | xvij ^s . | |
| | & Mrs. Byrom his wife } | | | |
| It | Richard Wood, | | ix ^s . | |

Proved 14 Dec^r 1609 by Alice Mather sole extrix. Endorsed. Be yt knowne unto all men that I Symond Mather of Lowton yeoman have knowne the way betwixt Wiſſm. Byrom & Thoms Corlies now in suite three score years & odd & neu^r knewe nor hard at anie tyme Thoms. Corleis or his predecessors to be lett stopped molested or hindered for going that waye but now of late & to testifie that this is true I have sett my hand to the same in the prsence of Thoms Robothome Curit of Winwicke, John Grysse John Twisse wth divers others.

Inventory prased by Hewe Sterroppe, Thomas Turner, Thomas Corlies, & Richard Baxter, 7 Dec. 1609, ccxx^{li}. xxix^s. x^d. besydes the readie money —vj^{li}. xiiij^s. iiiij^d.

Abraham Mather, of Radcliffe, 1613.

“ In the name of God Amen, on the one & twentieth daie of September in the yeare of our Lord God one thousand six hundred & thirteen. I

ABRAHAM MATHER of Radcliffe, Countie of Lancaster tanner, beinge visited by the hande of Almightye God sicke and weake in bodie, but of sound & p'fect minde for which praise be to God, make & ordayne this my last will & Testament in manner & form followinge—

Firstly & chiefly I bequeathe my soule to God the Father to Jesus Christe my Redeemer through whose merrittes I trust to see a glorious resurrection & to the Holie Gost the Santifier. & my bodie to be buried in decencte Christian buriale in the parish church of Radcliffe.

And As for the disposinge of those temporalle & worldie goods which I doe possess it is my will that they be divided in to two equalle p'tes—one parte of which I doe will & bequeath to my wyffe Jane & the other I reserve to myself to be disdosed off in manner & forme followinge.

| | |
|--|--|
| To my Brother Reginald Mather | 13 ^{li} 6 ^s 8 ^d |
| To Samuel Alens & his sistar Rosamund Alens
to either of them | 40 ^s |
| To my godson Abraham Macone [Makant] | 10 ^s |
| To all my god children | 3 ^s 4 apeece. |
| To Samuel Mather his two sonnes Samuell &
Christopher Mather | 6 ^s 8 apeece. |
| To the poore of y ^e Parish of Radcliffe | 40 ^s |

The house & grounde the which I rente from The Ryght worshipful Richard Assheton of Midleton I do give & assigne to my lovinge wyffe Jane."

In case of his wife's death the house & grounde to come "To Abraham Mather my nefue, which now dwelleth with me if he be come to the age of 20 yeares" in which case—"Abraham Mather my nefue to pay to the sayd Reginald Mather his unkell the summe of 6^{li}. 13^s. 4^d.

To Samuell Mather my brother those two closurs or closes of grounds which layeth by Ralph Undisworth's house which my Father boughte of Roger Tyldesle for ever—and the house wherein I now dwell & all the reste of my grounde to my nefue Abraham Mather." If Abraham die all to his brother Reginald.

Executrix His wife Jane Mather.

Witnesseth Reginald Mather. Abraham Mather. John Herdman. William Herdman. George Kyrkman.

Inventorie praised by foure honeste sufficiente men. George Kerkman W^m Macon Geffre Lomax & John Herdman on the 24 Sept. 1613.

Summa Totalis £87. 18. 0.

Humphrey Mather, of Wigan, 1613.

HUMFREY MATHER of Wigan. Tanner 3 May, 1611. To be buried at Wigan. Land leased from Gerrard Massie D.D Rector of Wigan, Wife Ellen—Eldest son Roger. Sons—Roger, William, James, Nicholas, 3 Daur's, Grace, Jane, Elizabeth, Son in Law John Scotte (Stott?) Brother of $\frac{1}{2}$ blood Thomas Banks Servant Henry Asmall. Cousins Wm. Gardner, Wm. Mather, Peter Marsh. Exix. wife. Overseers, Dr Marshe & 3 consins above named. Witnesses: Gerrard Massye. Wm Gardner. Peter Marsh.

Many names in Inventory which is dated 9 Dec. 1612.

Proved 9 Dec^r. 1613.

William Mather, of Turton, 1614.*

"On the 23 daie of March 1613 WILLIAM MATHER of Turton in the Countie Palatine of Lancaster husbandman,† being sicke in bodie, uttered his laste Will & Testamente in the followinge wordes or wordes like unto them—in the presence of the witnesses whose names are below written." He divides his property into 3 parts—1st part to Margaret his wife, 2^d part between his sons "Nicholas, John, Richard, William & James equallie"—3^d part, after payment of his debts, funeral expenses, etc., to be divided "equallie between my three youngest sonnes—that is to saye, Richard William & James Mather."

Executors. Margaret his wife & John Mather his son.

Witness at the utteringe of the words Alexander Horrocks.

Inventory valued March 31st 1614 [probably meant for 1613 O. S. as the will is endorsed as proved 1613] by Christopher Horrocks, James Walnichte [?] Lawrence Browlawe Junior & James Roskowe [Roscoe].

Summa totalis £165. 08. 04.

Proved 28 April 1614 by all the executors.

Ralph Mather, of Atherton, 1614.

RALPH MATHER of Atherton in the parish of Leigh, 28 Feby. 1613[-14]. To be buried at Leigh,‡ Goods to be divided into 3 parts. First part to Elizabeth my wife. Second part equally among my children. My sons, Roger Mather, & Raufe Mather, my Daughters, Ellen Mather, & Margaret Mather. Third part to myself, for legacies, Debts &c. Residue to son & daus. Ralph, Ellen, & Marg^t. Mather equally. Exors Elizabeth my wife and Rauf my son. Overseers—Henry Greene & Symon Smith.—Item, to my brother John Mather, 6^s 8^d to my Brother Richard Mather 6^s 8^d to my sister Elizabeth Mather, 3^s 4^d.

Names mentioned among Debts—Henry Denton, John Reeve, James Meaneley, John Rogerson, Wm. Hulton Esq, Raufe Mather my son, Raufe Sothworth, Wm Hurste, John Hulton, John Houghton, Wm Echcersley, John Smith, cobbler, The late wife of Robert Rigby.

Inventory by John Bradshawe, Rd Sothworth, John Astley, Chas. Greene, Rt. Morris, Rd. Battorsbie, 26 may 1614.

Proved 14 June 1614.

Ellen Mather, of Wigan, 1614.

ELLEN MATHER of Wigan, widow, 30 April 1614, late wife of Humphrey Mather late of Wigan, Tanner, To be buried at Wigan. My son Christopher Anderton. My brother Lawrence Maudisley. My sister Jennit Morrice. My cousin Ellen Langshawe. Elizabeth wife of Matt Markland, Elizabeth wife of Peter Marsh. My six sons, Christopher, Lawrence, Roger, William, James, & Nicholas. Overseers to have tuition of son Lawrence, & also of s^d Roger, W^m. James & Nicholas Mather, my younger sons. Roger to be a tanner.

Exor. Christopher Anderton.

Overseers. Dⁿ Gerrarde Masseye D.D. Rector of Wigan & Peter Marsh of Wigan, Gent.

Witnesses: Peter Marsh. Matt. Markland. Thos Briggs.

Proved 7 Sept 1614.

* This will is wrongly endorsed Nicholas Mather.

† Husbandman at this period generally meant what we now call a tenant-farmer.

‡ He was buried at Leigh church in May, 1614.

Gowther Mather, of Winwick, 1616.

GOWTHER MATHER of Winwicke husbandman 2 June, 13 James 1615. To be buried in my buriall within the parish church of Winwick. Goods to be divided into 3 parts, one for myself, the other for my wife & the third for my son Thomas Mather, in regard the rest of my children viz. Margaret & Jane my two daurs. already have had good portions. To daur. Jane Burton 5s. To daur Margaret Bretherton 5s. To Margaret Holcroft my granddaur, 1 black cow stirke of a year old. To Thomas Mather my grandson, 1 lamb &c. To Margerie Mather my mother in Lawe 5s. Residue to wife Anne Mather.

Exors. Son Thom^s. Mather & Gregorie Frend, Gent. Witnesses Nicholas Scaresbricke, Adam Coller, & Thomas Golden. Persons named under debts &c. Matthew Bretherton. Exors of Rich. Milner, Cather. Mason. Wm Towers. The officers at Winwicke, Thomas Golden, M^r Gregorie Frend, which he disbursed for me abt. my suit with John Kerfoote 35s. Tho. Golden, Hy. Towers, Hy. Sothworth, Roger Par, Humfrey Parr.

Inventory 10 June 1615 by adam Coller, Henry Towers, Matt. Bretherton, & Tho. Burton £100. 3. 9.

Proved 18 Oct. 1616, by Thomas Mather.

The renunciation of Gregory Friende is enclosed in the will.

Ellis Mather, of Toxteth, 1617.

In the name of God Amen. I, ELLIS MATHER of Toxteth within the Countie of Lancaster within the Realme of England husbandman, beinge in p^rfecte health & memorie prayed bee God for y^e same, yet calling to mynd the uncertaintie of mans life & that there sh^d bee no contention or variance about those goodes which it hath pleased God to bestowe on mee here, I do therefore ordaine & make this my last will & testament in manner & forme following. First I commit my soule into the handes of Allmightie God, hoping by the snufferings of Jesus Christ to be saved & to enjoy a joyfull resurrection with the reste of Gods children & so to be blessed for evermore.

Item I will that my bodie be committed to the Earthe in honeste comelie burriall. Item, my goodes & chattels landes & tenements debts wheresoever due & howsoever, my will ys that they be disposed of In manner & forme following, viz my messuages & tentes with all howses barnes & buildings etc in Toxteth with all other my landes & tenements goodes & chattels to bee put to the ordering & disposing of my trustie & well beloved friendes William Banester of Liupoole [Liverpool] Alderman, William ffoxe of Toxteth, Randle Mather my unkle & Myles Mather my brother to the uses hereafter mentioned & noe otherwise. viz the moitie of my house & grounds in Toxteth to be ockupied & used to the behoofe of Myles Mather my eldest son. The said Myles paying to my younger children the full wholl summe of twentye pounds of Lawfull Englishe money to be devyded by equal p^rportion among them at such tyme as he shall come to the full age of twentye & one yeares.

Item: the other moitie to the use & behoofe of Elizabeth my wyffe for & towards the education & bringing up of my children in the feare of God.

Item. My will ys that my Lands & buildings in the Speake fiede bee used & ockupied to the moste commoditie & profit of Richard, Thomas, William & Edwarde my naturall* children during all my tearme of yeares

* Natural here does not mean illegitimate.

& Interest in the same & what further tearme may be had in the same to be to the p'ferment of my sonne Richard.

Item: My will is that my goodes & chattels be devyded into 3 parts, the first part whereof I give & bequeath unto Elizabeth my wyffe; the seconde to my children; the thirde I reserve to myself out of which besydes my bringinge out & discharging of my debts, the residue I give & bequeath unto my abovenamed younger children.

And to the end this my laste will & testamente accordinge to my desyre may be p'formed I doe appointe & ordaine the abovenamed W^m Banester & W^m ffoxe my true & lawfull executors hoping they will bee faithful & trustie herein. Item. my will & Desyre is that my brother in law Thomas Hodgsonn would be pleased to be overseer of this my will & Testament to see the same in all pointes p'formed.—my hand & seal the xv daie Sept. A D. 1616.

Debts oweinge unto mee.

| | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------|
| John Tarleton on reckoninge between hym & me | 50 ^{li} . | |
| W ^m Griphith for a mare & a colte | 4 ^{li} . | |
| Alexander Warde of Boulton | | 12 ^s |
| Richard Partington for a mare to paye at Mich. 1617 | 3 ^{li} . | |
| Ned Reshton | | 20 ^s |
| Bartin Mather my unkle due at purificatio 1617 | 7 ^{li} . | |
| John Windle oweth 10 ^{li} to Bartholemew Thomson }
which I am suretie for. | | |
| My brother Hodgson about | 4 ^{li} . | |

Dettes oweinge by mee.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| To Mr Darbie of Liu'poole | 13 ^{li} . |
|---------------------------|--------------------|

Witnesses Edward Rushton Ellis Mather

Thomas Woodes [this is only a copy]

1617. A true and perfect Inventorie of goodes & chattels of Ellis Mather of Toxteth, as they were prysed & valedwed by John Walker, W^m Horrockes, W^m Gill & Myles Mather the xix daie of Dec. 1616.

Summa totalis 134^{li}. 2. 11.

Proved January xxx. 1616[–17] by Executors.

John Mather, of Astley, 1617.

“JOHN MATHER of [Astley in] the p' rishe of Leigh. 25 May, 1617. To be buryed in my parishe church of Leighe* in my owne buryall [place] there as neare vnto my wyffe as may bee.” After debts paid “one halfe of my goodes amongst all my fyve children and also that my three youngest children have every one of them 20^s over and besides their parts.” Residue of other part to said children. Lamberte Partington of Tyldesley and Thomas Withington of Astley Exors.

Debts which I owe

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Roger Younge | vi ^{li} . | | |
| Lamberte Smethurste | | vi ^s . | |
| John Gest | iiij ^{li} . | x ^s . | |
| ux. Thome Rysley | iiij ^{li} . | vi ^s . | viiij ^d . |
| Lamtle Partington | | xl ^s . | |
| Jane Worsley | | liij ^s . | iiij ^d . ob |
| Gyles Dunsteere to be paid at Martinmas | iiij ^{li} . | iiij ^s . | viiij ^d . |
| Mr. Henrie Trapes, [Trapps] | | xxiiiij ^s . | ix ^d . |

* He was buried at Leigh Church, 29 May, 1617.

Lamberte Tyldesley
 Christopher Astley
 William Hope

Debts oweinge to me

xx^s.
 xxiiiij^s.
 ij^{li}. ij^s. viij^d.

James Astley
 George Holcrofte
 John Walkden

iiij^{li}. xiiij^s. iiiij^d.

xxx^s.

xv^s.

Witnesses:

Lamberte Tyldesley
 Robert Cluarthe [Cleworth]
 Tho. Morse.

Inventory £64-2-8 prysed & valued by Christopher Astley, Hughe Mather, John Walkeden & Symond Mather, 29 May, 1617.

Proved by Executors, 4 July, 1617 (called of Astley in the parish of Leigh).

Thurstan Mather, of Hindley, 1619.

THURSTAN MATHER of Hindley. 22 February, 1618-19. To be buried at Wigan, Son Philip. Lease from Xpofer Stanynoght & others. My wife Margery. My 3 children Hamphrey, Jane and Elizabeth, Grandchild Gilbert. Exors, wife Margery, son Philip. Overseers, my master Mr. Abraham Langton, & friend Wm. Latchford.

Witnesses: Ja. Massye, Adam Aspull, Wm. Latchford, Randle Latchford, Abraham Langton.

Inventory 8 April, 1619, by Peter Langton, Wm. Langton, Richard Greene of Hindley, yeoman, Rich^d Ashton of Abraham yeoman, £135:1:0.

Proved 24 Nov. 1619.

Richard Mather, of Bedford, Lancashire, 1621.

RICHARD MATHER, of Bedford, Leigh, 17 January 1620[-1.] To be buried at Leigh.* All lands tents &c in Bedford to Allyce my wife during her life, if she remain unmarried—if she marry or live unchaste &c then &c to the heirs of my own body, Failing to Hugh Mather, son of Hugh Mather of Tildesley & his heirs male, failing to James, another son of the said Hugh, failing to Thomas another son of the said Hugh, failing to John eldest son of the said Hugh, failing to the right heirs of the said Hugh. I give to Ellen Cawdall my sister, wife of Tho^s Cawdall the sum of 20^s. Rest of goods to Alice my wife & I make her exor.

Debts owing to me Richard Mather.

First. Ellis Greene oweth me for bord wages of himself for one quarter of a yeare after three pounds the yere the some of

xv^s.

Item. Hugh Mather my father-in law

vi^{li}.

Inventory 20 March 1620, £59 10. 10. by Christ^f Astley, John Ouldham, Thomas Nailer, W^m Crompton.

Proved 22 March 1620[-21.]

Joane Mather, of Warrington, Widow, 1621.

"In the name of God Amen, on the laste daie of September in the yeare of our God 1621. I JOANE MATHER, of Warrington in the Countie of Lancaster wydowe, sicke in bodie but of good & p'fecte minde God I thank therefore doe make & ordayne this my laste will & testament in manner & form followinge.

* He was buried at Leigh Church, 18 March, 1620-21.

Before all other things I leave my soule into the hands of Allmighty God the Father.—to Jesus Christe the son my redeemer & the Holie Ghost the spirit my sanctifier & my bodie to the earth from whence it came.

Item. I give & leave to Sister Hyde, £10

“ “ “ “ my brother W^mBrock, £10.

“ “ “ “ “ “ Ric^d Brock of Bunbury, £10.

“ “ “ “ his daughter Mary Brock, one of my beste gownes & £5 in money.

I give & bequeathe to Joane Bowden als. Johnson one fether bed one coveringe one blankett & one greate potte also one Petticoate & one uud^coate which I usually weare.”

A small bequest to “my god daughter Jane Gryce.” “The reste & remainder of my goodes moveable and immoveable quick & dead I will & bequeath to W^m Brocke my nephewe & his children.”

Executors: “My brother Richard Brocke & nephewe W^m Brocke.”

Witnesseth. John Wright, Lawrence Shepherd, John Bulling, W^m Brock, Anne Hyde, Joane Bowden.

Invent. by Lawrence Massie, John Dunbabin, Ric^d Toppinge & Richard Boardman. 1st Oct 1621.

Summa totalis 219^{li}.

John Mather, of Newton in Makerfield, 1624.

JOHN MATHER of Newton in Makerfield [in the parish of Winwick] yeoman 22 March 20 James [1623]. To be buried at Winwick. Thomas son and heir apparent under age. Margaret my now wife. John Mather of Lowton my natural father to have property in Newton and Golborne during the minority of Thomas. Immen Mather my daughter named.

Witnesses Thomas Liptrot, Henry Byrom.

Inventory “prayed by foure honeste men” Hy. Byrom, Richard Baxter, John Johnsonne, & Thos. Storrope [Stirrop], 1 April 1624, £55. 10. 8. An addition to the inventory made 28 Mar. 1625-6; in it are mentioned John Mather father of the deceased, Richard Mather his youngest brother, Jane Hasleden his sister in law, Wm Mather his brother. Thos Mather, Roger Greene his brother in Law & his children, John Ridyard, blacksmith, Margaret Mather and his Fellow Churchwardens [of Winwick].

Proved May 1624.

Raphe Mather, of Warrington, 1625.

RAPHE MATHER of (Conies Corner] Warrington yeoman.

Inventory 13 Oct 1624. £231. 17. 6.

His father-in-laws house. House at Conies corner. Richard Baxter. Goulden Cooke. John Cooke. Peter Spakeman. M^r [or W^m] Bispham. Ellen Spakeman, his sister-in-law. John Higginson. Thomas Miller. Peter Spakeman's field. Raphe Mather of Radcliffe Bridge. John Cook of Winwick. Thomas Highfield. James Boyde. W^m Mather & wife. Thomas Mather his father. Margery wife of s^d Thomas. John Dytchfield. M^r [or W^m] Brooke.

Appraised by Thomas Bisphome. Nathan Ashworth. Geoffrey Wilkin-son. Henry Mather.

Proved 19 Sept. 1625.

Richard Mather, of Lowton, 1626.

RICHARD MATHER of Lowton, yeoman, 21st Sept. 1626. One third of lands etc to Catherine, my nowe wife for life. The other two thirds to my son John Mather during the life of s^d Catherine, & after her decease my son John to have all lands etc to him & his heirs for ever. Son Nicholas Mather.

Exors John Mather, son.

Overseers Hamlet Warburton my son-in-law & Hy Winterbothome of Kenyon Sen^r.

Witnesses: Nicholas Mather. John Mather. John Winterbothome.

Inventory by Hy Byrom, John Mather, Geo Darwell, Hy Winterbothome, 29 Sept. 1626. £52. 8. 8.

Proved 12 Oct. 1626.

Gabriel Mather, of Radcliffe, 1627.

"In the name of God Amen. I, GABRYELL MATHER of Radcliffe C^o of Lancaster Yeoman beinge sicke & weake in bodie but sounde & howle in mynde thanks be to God therefore, & knowing the mortalitie of this bodie & that it is appointed unto all men once to dye, do make & ordayne this my laste will & testament in manner & forme following: firstly & chiefflie I leave my soule in the hands of God the Father etc"—

"And as concerninge the goodes & chattels, which it hath pleased God to lesse me withall, my will & minde is that accordinge to the custome of the province wherein I nowe dwell, the same be devyded into 3 equall partes, namely, one third parte commonlie called the deatheaes p^{te} I reserve unto myself. Another parte accordinge to the custome I leave unto my wife Elizabeth & the other Third p^{te} & Remaynder I give & bequeathe unto my six children (that is to saie) unto Raphell, Zacherie, James, Abraham Gabriell & Dorotheie equallie to be devyded amongst them."

"To all my grand children i^s apeece—to all my god children the same.—

"It is my mind & will that my two youngest children Gabriell & Dorotheie to wit have xx^s apeece towards their education"—

"Item. I leave to my sonne Gabriell xl^s more."

"Item I leave to my sonne Zacherie iii^{li}."

"Item I leave to my mayde Jane Battersbie xx^s."

"I doe give to my sonne James two bays of howsinge wherein he nowe dwelleth, he mayntaininge the same tenantable duringe the remainder of my lease."

"I ordayne & constitute my loveinge wife Elizabeth & my son Abraham Mather my sole Executors."

Witnesseth—Roger Hardman, James Mather.

Inventory taken "17 daie of October 1627 by Richard Partington, Thomas Mather Edward Allen & James Mather."

[*inter alia*] "Mem^d There is a p^{cell} of lands which we contende to be a chattel taken by the deceased of the Worshipfull M^r Raphe Asshton of Middleton, contain, 21 acres for 21 yeares for 45 pounds fyne [fine*] which did beginne the 25 March, laste paste.—

Summa totalis 96^{li} i^s 0^d.

Henry Mather, of Hulton, 1629.

HENRY MATHER of Middle Hulton, co. Lancaster, husbandman, 20 Sept 1627. To be buried at Deane, in my father's burial [place] Debts paid

* Fine, here a payment in one sum, instead of an annual rent.

&c. Goods &c to be divided into 3 parts. First part to myself. Second part to Anne Mather now my wife. The third part to all my children, equally divided. Out of my own part, after payment of funeral exps &c, residue to Ralph Mather & James Mather, two of my youngest sons. Exors. Anne Mather, my wife, and Richard Mather my eldest son "and I humblye desyre the right worshipfull my verye goode Ladye, the Ladye Dame Dorothy Lighe [Legh] to be sup'vysore of this my last will.

Witnesses

[Signed]

Thomas Marshe,
Adam Grundye,

HENRYE MATHER.

Inventory taken, 28 May 1629 by Richard Edge, John Russell[?] Thomas Edge, Adam Grundye.

Debts owing by testator,

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Ralph Mather his sonne | £1 .. 8 .. 0. |
| Elizabeth Earsleye | £1 .. 2 .. 0. |
| Funeral Charges at
the house & the Church } | £2 .. 18 .. 0. |

Proved 9 April, 1629 by the exors.

James Mather, of Pennington, 1631.

JAMES MATHER of Brockhurst in Pinington [in the parish of Leigh, Lancaster] husbandman 1st Nov. 1630 To be buried at Leigh. And whereas I am seized of a tenement &c. in Brockhurst in Pennington for a certain term of years as by Indenture of lease—now I give the s^d lease to Henry Mather my eldest son according to promise at his marriage to Margaret his wife, he the s^d Henry paying to his younger brethen, viz. Richard Mather, Thomas Mather, and John Mather &c. And as for goods, &c. to be divided into 2 equal parts. One I reserve for myself the other part I give to my 4 sons, Henry, Richard, Thomas, & John—&c &c.

Makes Henry & John, exors.

[a copy]

Witnesses. Tho Corloes, John Domvill, George Alston.

Inventory 24 June 1631 by Tho Corlaes, Geffrey Mather, Robert Wotmoughe James Greene. £55 .. 14 .. 10.

Proved 25 July 1631.

John Mather, of Lowton, 1633.

JOHN MATHER of Lowton yeoman. 29 Oct. 8 Charles 1632. To be buried at Winwick. Whereas Richard Holland, late of Denton, co. Lanc, Esq deceased by lease dated 16 June 4 James [1606] did for a consideration therein contained lease a tenemt. &c in Lowton wherein I the s^d John Mather did then & now dwell for fourscore years if I the s^d John Mather party to these p'sents Thos. Mather & John Mather sons of me the said John Mather or any of them so long live at a rent of 17^s per annum. Now this my will witnesseth that I the s^d John Mather, for the preferment of my wife & children do assign to Margaret now my wife &c. Thos Mather my son. Whereas John Mather late of Newton in Makerfield yeoman deceased by his will dated 22 March 21 James [1624] did give to me John Mather &c lands in Newton & Golborne, co. Lanc, to me after the decease of the s^d John Mather of Newton until such time as Thomas Mather son & heir apparent of the s^d John M. of Newton is 21. Now for the maintenance &c of the s^d Thos. Mather my grandchild & Immen Mather his sister &c. I de-

vise to Roger Harte of Westhoughton co. Lanc, yeoman, the s^d property in Newton & Golborne, to have & to hold until my said Grandchild Thomas Mather shall be 21. To Anne wife of Robert Batte, of Croft my natural* daughter £3. The residue to my son William Mather & Imen & Margaret my daughters equally.

Exors: son Rich^d Mather & John Hindly of Aspoule [Aspull].

Among Debts &c are mentioned,

Margaret Hale, Anne Hynde, Elizabeth Forster, Roger Franncce, Henry Hiltom, William Baxter, Jas. Shawe, Humfrey Houghton, and testator's children William, Richard and Margaret.

Inventory by Hy. Byrom, Rd Baxter Tho: Corles, & John Lyptrotte, 16 April, 1633. £154 .. 4 .. 6.

Named in the inventory are,

Peter Peterson, Humphrey Houghton, Anne Hynde, Marg^t Hale, Anne Holland, James Shawe, Elizth Forster, Richard Pare [Parr].

Proved 24 April, 1633.

William Mather, of Warrington, 1633.

WILLIAM MATHER of Warrington Yeoman, 26 Aug. 1633. To be buried in our usual burying place in the churchyard of Warrington. Wife Margaret. Money owing by Thomas Middlehurst of Warrington. Land late in the occupation of John Holcrofte of Warrington, Son Wm Mather. Land late in occupⁿ of Edward Wilson of Warrington, Son Thomas Mather† Daur Jane. Lands late in occupⁿ of Richard Abraham, Richard Clarke, Mr. Tho^s Bispham, Nathan Ashworth schoolmaster & Thomas Littlemore, all of Warrington. Exors. "Nathan Ashworth Schoolem^r of the Free Grammer School of Warring[ton]."

Witnesses: Raphe Holland, Edward Wilson.

WILLIAM MATHER.

Proved 15 Sep. 1633.

Immen Mather, of Lowton, Spinster, 1633.

IMMEN MATHER of Lowton, of the parish of Winwick, spinster 5 Oct. 1633.

My Mother. My Sister Alice Harte. My sister Jane Greene. My sister Margaret Mather. My nephew Thomas Mather & his sister Immen Mather. My godchild Robert Harte. My godchild Anne Liptrote. My brother Wm. Mather. My brother Richard Mather executor.

Witnessess:—John Byrom.

the mark Manuell

Richard Mather.

of Immen Mather.

John Winterbottom.

Inventory 20 Oct. 1633, by Hy. Byrom, & Rd. Baxter.

The Debts name:—

John Liptrote, Robt. Tickle, Rafe Hasleden, Roger Culcheth, John Morris, Thomas Corleis. £65 .. 1 .. 5.

Proved 5 Nov. 1633 by the exōr.

* Natural here does not mean illegitimate.

† "Thomas Mather, the attorney," was buried at Warrington, 2 July, 1659.—(Beamont's "Warrington Church Notes," page 81.) Another Thomas was an Ironmonger at Warrington about the same time.—("Wills at Chester, 1660-1680," Record Society's publications, vol. 15, p. 182.)

William Mather, of Warrington, 1634.

A true & lawfull Inventorie of all the goodes & cattels chattels & debtes moveable & immoveable of WM MATHER late of Warrington in the Countie of Lancaster Yeoman dec^d, taken & prised the xiiii day of September An Dom 1633, by these honest & credible p'sons, to wit, Richard Bordman, John Pennington, John Lether & Thomas Fletcher.

In the house.

[*inter alia*] One Joyned chaire, one Twiggen chaire, two throwne chaires, 8 stooles & two little children's chaires. xi^s.

The following rooms are mentioned Butterie, Kitchen nearer chamber at the stairehead, further chamber—Parlor.—Stable.

"In the house at Conies Corner, on Warrington heath side." "In the shoppe." "In chamber over shoppe."

Item: A Tacke of Grounde in Arpley being Two Acres from Thos Mather of the streete. x^{li}.

Item: One house called Sharth House xl^{li}.

Item: Two closes of late ymproved heath ground called by the names of the nearer & the further intack containing by estimation 4 ac. & a half for a terme of yerres. xxxv^{li}.

Item: Two closes of late ymproved heath ground, late in occupation of Roger Hughes & Ric Crosbie 3 acres. xvi^{li}.

Item: A parcel of y^e late Thos Bulling & Elizabeth Yale, & called The Homes 2 acs. for a terme of yerres xvi^{li}.

Item: One mortgage of a ten^t from Thos Penkethman Jun^r to s^d W^m Mather for use of children of Thos Thelwall of Holme consideration being £50.

Item: Due by Ellice Macon sen^r & E. M. Jun^r 4^{li}. 6^s.

Item: Due by Thos Littlemore on the annun^{ct}on of our Blessed Ladie Marie, The Virgin, next 30^{li}.

Item: Due by John Launder & the Exors of John Eden. 21^{li}. 7^s.

Item: In apparrell for the dec^d his back. vi^{li}.

Summa totalis cclxxii. vii. x.

pr^d x April 1634.

Elizabeth Mather, of Lyme, 1634.

Administration of the goodes & chattles of "ELIZABETH MATHER of Lyme, Countie of Chester wydowe" granted July, 1634, to her daughter Alice Mather, being of the age of 20 years.

Overseers, "John Bretherton, John Leigh of Lyme & Humphrey Barlow de eadem in Countie of Chester yeoman, consanguines."

[On dorso—John Leigh & Humphrey Barlow]

A true & p'fect Inventorie of the goodes &c. that were Elizabeth Mather's late of Lyme Countie of Chester widowe. Praised by Richard Steele Thomas Chantler & George Mann of Lyme aforesaid 6th July 10th yeare of Charles by the grace of God King of England, Scotland, France & Ireland def of the faith etc.

[*inter alia*] Item: All her app'ell [apparel] xxxxx^s.

Item: One tacke of ground iii^{li}. x^s.

Item: Hemp & Too [tow] xl^s.

Item: All sorts of Lynnens xxxxx^s.

Summa totalis £50. 10^s.

Richard Mather, of Whitefield, 1635.

In the name of God Amen 2 Oct. 1626 I RICHARD MATHER of Whitefield in y^e parish of Prestwich [cum Oldham] Countie of Lancaster fustian webstar—My “bodie to Parish church yard of Prestwich.”—“And as for suche goodes as I had leafte me by my parentes, it is my will & mind & I do give & bequeath them unto my unkell Mylles Mather.” To “my measter Richard Rostern 20^s.” “Item: My brother Thomas to have that one barne & parcel of ground which was left me by my Father. My executors to enjoy the same to the daye of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary next after the date hereof. Till my brother Thomas shall come to 21 years.”

“To Margaret Rosterne 5^s.”

“To my two brethern W^m Mather & Edward Mather.”

Executors John Horrocke of the out wood & Mylles Mather my brother.

Witnesses. John Horrock [?] of Toxteth.

Edward Rostern.

Proved 30 Sept. 1635, by Miles Mather.

John Mather, of Atherton, 1635.

A true & p^rfecte Inventorie of all the goods & chattels that were JOHN MATHER's, late of Atherton [in the parish of Leigh, Lancashire] deceased, not yet administered by vertue of an Assignment made to the said John Mather & one Bradshawe by Ralph Thropp [Thorp] late of Atherton afores^d in trust to certaine uses & Lymittacions as thereby it my appeare, which said Assign^t being for 70 yeares determinable uppon hath been valued by us whose names are here under written to the summe of Foure pounds

Witness our hands

Henry Aked

Gyles Green

Ric^d Thorpe

[endorsed 1635.]

Richard Mather, of Pennington, 1636.

RICHARD MATHER of Brockhurst in Pennington [in the parish of Leigh] co. Lanc^r husbandman, 29 Sep 1636. To be buried at Leigh. Wife Anne enceinte. Children Roger & Anue. Brother John Mather. Brother in Law John Farnworth. Wm Wood.

Exors: bro: in law Jno Farnworth & Brother Hy Mather.

Witnesses:

William Wood × his m^k, Oliver Leigh × his m^k, John Sorocold, Henry Mather.

Debts mention:—

Wm. Urmeston Jun^r, Tho^s Houlden of Eccles, Nicholas Valentyne, Tho^s Boydell, John Hasleden, George Mouncke's [Monks] Evan Haydock, Henry Mather, Gawther Kenion, Geoffrey Mather Sen^r, Tho^s Hardman of Barton, Alex Radcliffe, John Sorocold, Ellen Haslegreeve alias hole. Tho. Batterbie “litle Ann.”

Inventory 1 Oct. 1636, by Robert Watmough, John Mather, Richard Wood, Thomas Farnworth. £99 .. 9 .. 2.

Proved 18 Nov. 1636, by Hy. Mather.

Samuel Mather, of Radcliffe, 1638.

In the Name of God Amen, the two & twentieth daie of March in the yeare of our Lord God 1635. I SAMUEL MATHER of the Parish of Radcliffe, cloakworker, infirme & weake in bodie but sounde & clere in mynde & memorie, do make this my laste will & testament in manner & forme followeth.

Firstly & before all other things I bequeath my soule in to the hands of Allmighty God, etc. & my bodie to be buried in the Parish Church or Churchyard of Radcliffe.

After payment of funeral Expenses—property to be divided into “three parts, except my howsing & backside which I hould by lease from the Right Worshippfull Raphe Assheton, situate & being in the Parish of Radcliffe, which I give & dispose unto my sonnes Christopher & Abraham.”

Mentions, “The bay next Richard Fletchers house”—“Anne my wife.”
“to Elizabeth Mather my grand daughter one gowne which was Dorothe’s my late wifes.

“To Rachael & Dorothe Mather my grand daughters 5^s.

“To Richard, Samuel, John, Abraham & Christopher Mather my grandsons 3^s 4^d apeece.”

“To James Yate, Elizabeth Yate & Richard Yate my wife’s children 3^s 4^d apeece.

“To Sarah my brother Renald’s daughter 3^s 4^d.

Executors Christopher & Abraham Mather.

“My kinsman Abraham Mather overseer.”

Witnesses. Hamlet Sandiforth.

Thomas Harobiinn.

Rich^d Davenport.

Inventory 1638 by Abraham Mather, Richard Walker, Richard Manchester, Richard Hardman. Summa totalis, £110.6.4.

Proved 6 June 1638, by Christopher Mather, Exor.

William Mather, of Lowton, 1638.

WM MATHER of Lowton husbandman. 18 Aug 1638. To be buried at Winwick. To sister Margaret Mather £100. To brother Thomas Mather &c. brother Richard Mather & Jane wife of Brother Richard Mather. To Thomas Mather which I am uncle to. To Immen Mather which I am uncle to. To sister Jane Greene. Sister Alice Harte. Sister Anne Batte. Exor Sister Margaret Mather.

Witnesses:—John Byrom, Henry Byrom.

Inventory taken 3 Sep. 1638 by Hy Byrom, Thomas Corles, Henry Corles.

Proved 5 Sep 1638.

John Mather, of Tyldesley, 1638.

In the name of God Amen, on the 7th daie of March 1638 I JOHN MATHER of Tildesley, Parish of Leighe [Lancashire] husbandman—leaves “bodie to be buried in the Parishe Church of Leighe.

“Item. Whereas my eldest sonne John had 10^{li} lefte him by the laste will & testament of Richard Woodborne dece^d his late unkell, & whereas I had the monie, I will that it be repaid him.”

Goods into 3 parts. 1st reserves to himself, 2^d part to Margerie his wife & 3^d part equally amongst his children.

His 1st part he wishes after payment of funeral expenses etc. to go to his 4 youngest children namely, William, Hugh, Anne & Margaret.

Executor. "My sonne John & my lovinge wife."

Witnesseth. Thomas Hulton, Ric^d Ashley, William Vallentyne.

Inventory by Thomas Hulton, W^m Vallentyne Ric^d Partington, Lambert Gall [or Sale], James Mather, 1 April 1638.

Summa totalis 58^{li} 9^s 6^d.

Proved 8 October[?] 1639 by Margery Mather, widow, the relict.

John Mather, of Lowton, 1638.

JOHN MATHER of Lowton, 25 Nov. 1637. My sons Richard, Nicholas & John (the last under age). My wife Elizabeth. Brothers in law George Darrowe and Hamlet Warbotonn.

Exors. wife Elizabeth & son Nicholas.

Debts mention :—

Nicholas Mather my brother, Roger Croft, Richard Wood, Ralph Chad-docke, Elizabeth Sharlocke, Widow, Thomas Battersbie.

Inventory, 5 Dec. 1637, by James Greene, George Darrow, Thos. Turner, & Richard Holcroft of Lowton, yeoman. £63 .. 13 .. 11½.

Witnesses :

mark of Richard Holcroft

H. T. Henry Taylor his mark

Richard Leigh.

Roger Mason.

Proved 1638.

Hamlet Mather, of Manchester, 1639.

In the name of God Amen the eighte daie of January in the yeare of our Lord God 1639 I HAMLET MATHER of Manchester in the Countie of Lancaster, servant to Gyles Siddall being sicke in bodie & Infirme, but of sound mynde etc. Property in three parts. I reserve the 1st parte for my self & I take unto my selfe therefrom Tenne Pounds for my discharge in the bringeing of me forth.* It is my will that the seconde parte be devided to my kinsfolk—first I give and bequeath to my brother Henerye Mather £4—to his sonne Richard Mather 20^s—to my brother Richard Mather £4—to my Aunt Mary Horrax [Horrocks] £4—and the Gould receved of the Kinges maj^{tie}.† Item. I give to her sonne John Horrax & his wife 13^s. 4^d. Item. I give to her grandchild John Horrax £3. Item: I give to her one daughter Margaret Butterworth the coffer that is at John Rowbotham's house. Item: I give to her daughters Dorothe Wolworke & Elizabeth Towneleye either of them 6^s 8^d. I will that the 3^d part be divided between my friends. I will & bequeath to my master Gyles Siddall £10. Item: To Abraham Bouker [Bowker] now servant to James Johnson, my cloake & my beste shuite. [suit] Item: To James Slater that presse of myne which is in his house & 3 of my beste bands that hee

* That is for his funeral.

† The "gould" here referred to was a small gold coin given by the King when the recipient was "touched" for the "King's evil," or scrofula. From the Inventory to this Will it appears that the gold coin was a half sovereign given by Charles I. to Hamlet Mather.

can chuse. Item: To Mary Bouker now servante to Gyles Siddall 20^s. Item: what is left over the 20^s to him that shall preach at my Buriall, to go to my master Gyles Siddall. I desire that Gyles Siddall my master be my Executor.

Witnesses. Ric^d Meare Edw^d [?—] Thos Briddocke [Brideoake].

A true & perfecte Inventorie and Indent of the Goods & chattels of Hamblet Mather late of Manchester in the Countie of Lanc deceased; Appraized by George Crannige Richard Halliwell vintner, Nathaniel Lownds & James Slater the xiii daye of April in y^e year of our Lord God 1640.

Among many other items is:—

Item: One peece of Gould given unto him by the

Kings' Maj^y for the Kings ewell. [evil]

Summa totalis

x^d
49^{li}. 14^s. 6^d.

Exhibit' xx Aprilis 1640.

Proved 14 Feb. 1639 [—40.]

The Rev. Richard Mather, of Castle Northwich, 1640.

In the name of God Amen. I RICHARD MATHER of Castle Northwich within the Chapelry of Witton in the Countie of Chester clerke.—being sicke in bodie but of perfect memorie praisse & laud be to God therefor do make & ordayne etc. I commit my bodie to the earth to be interred within the chancell of the Cappell of Witton afores^d Imprimis To my deare lovinge wife Elizabeth Mather, all that my message & tenement situated in Warrington Countie of Lancaster, with th' appert's for the terme of her natural life, if she continue in my name & keepe herselfe sole & unmarried & live in a chaste comely & discreet manner. Mentions "all my children duringe their minority." "To my sonne Samuel Mather when he attains yeares of discretion"—"my sonne Benjamin"—"my daughters Martha, Mary & Hester Mather."—Executrix, his wife. "My worthy friends M^r Burrowes viker of Runckhorne [Runcorn] M^r Rich^d Pigot of Witton afores^d Thomas Robinson of Northwich, Peter Venables of Lostocke—my brother-in-law Rich^d Wroe & my Lovinge kinsman Nicholas Mather of Warrington overseers."

9th Sept. 1640.

Witnesses. Ric^d Pigott.

Thos Robinson.

Richard Mather

[A note is enclosed—as follows:]

A note of all such bookes as I Richard Mather clerke doe give unto the overseers of my will & other speciall friends as followeth:

To M^r Burrowes. Doc^r Dauenant [Davenant] upon the Collects.

To M^r Pigot, Rogers Catichisme & the treatis[e] of the sacraments, both bound up together.

To Thos. Robinson. Elton upon the viiith of Romans.

To Peter Venables such a booke as M^r Pigot shall think fitt & so also for my brother Wroe—cosen Nicholas Mather—W^m Venables his sonne—& other friends whom I have mentioned to him.

To M^r Robert Venables the younger Renalls three [?] in one volume.

[Signed] RICHARD MATHER.

Inventory—27 Sept. 1640 by Richard Pigot Thomas Robinson Peter Venables W^m Venables Nicholas Mather [all signatures].

Summa totalis £51. 14^s. 9^d.

Thomas Mather, of Eccleston, 1641.

In the name of God Amen, I, THOMAS MATHER of Eccleston neare Croston in the Countie of Lancaster Bricklayer*—etc. Property into 3 parts—reserves one part—2^d part to his wife [Margery.] 3^d part to his 3 sons Adam John & William 1^s to every godechild.

Item I give to every one who shall owe me any money with consideration att the tyme of my death, a third pte of the use or consideration.

Rest & remainder equallie between his two sonnes. John & William.

And whereas I have a messuage & tenement situate in Asley in the parish of Leigh within the Countie of Lancaster I do leave the same to Adam my son & whereas I have a messuage & tenement for the term of 4 score & 19 years I do leave the same to Margery my wife & Adam my sonne, equallie between them. Mentions "An Indenture made by Alice Gradell of Ulnes walton widow & Christopher her son, both deceased."

I herewith grant & assign the new house lately erected att the east end of my new dwelling house unto my son William.—& the lofte of my house unto my s^d sonnes John & William.

Also that messuage which I hold on lease from Richard L^d Viscount Molyneux dec^d & by the demise of W^m Diconson of Heskyn gent called by the general names of Loe close & The Longe Butts.—I bequeath unto Margery my wife.

Margery my wife to mayntaine W^m my son in clothes meate & drinke so long as he is apprentice to Richard Wareing.

Witnesses Robt. Hodson.

Ric^d Wareing.

Dettes oweing unto me the s^d Testator

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| From Robert Spencer | 40 ^s |
|---------------------|-----------------|

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| " John Simpson | 20 ^s |
|----------------|-----------------|

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| " Rob ^{te} Kokker | 10 ^s |
|----------------------------|-----------------|

Inventory by Rob^t Hodson of Ulnes Walton yeom James Mather of Tildesley yeom Ric Waringe & James Blackborne of Eccleston yeom 7 March 1640[-1].

Sum tot. £212. 8. 6.

Proved 10 March 1641[-2.]

Ellen Mather, of Atherton, 1647.

Feby 1646-7. Administration of goods of ELLEN MATHER of Atherton, granted to Ralph Mather.

Bondsman, W^m Bennet.

William Mather, of Warrington, 1647.

21 Oct 1647. Administration of goods of W^m MADDERS of Warrington, granted to Edward Evered.

Endorsed. Administration of the goods of W^m Mather late of Warrington, 1647.

Geoffrey Mather, of West Leigh, Co. Lanc., 1648.

23 Oct 1648: Administration of goods of JEFFRAY MATHER, late of West Ley, Yeoman, granted to John Williamson of West Ley [Leigh] husbandman.

* The "Bricklayer" of 1641 was the equivalent of the modern "builder" and "contractor."

Joan Mather mentioned & described as his widow & relict.
Inventory, by William Grundy, Heath Radcliffe, Roger Ranikares & John Greene.

Summa totalis, 35^{li.} 00^{s.} 04^{d.}

William Mather, of Warrington, 1649.

30 Jan 1648[-9]. Administration of goods of W^m MATHER, late of Warrington, granted to Margaret Mather, widow, mother of deceased.

John Mather of Warrington yeoman bondsman. [Signed]
John Mather.

William Mather, Junior, of Warrington, 1649.

Administration of Goods of W^m MATHER junior, late of Warrington granted to Margaret Mather, mother of deceased.

Bondsman, Edward Evered jun^r of Warrington 4th April 1649.

Robert Mather, of West Leigh, co. Lanc. yeoman, 1618.

[From the original will in the possession of Mr. J. P. Earwaker, M.A., F.S.A.]

In the Name of god Amen vpon the xxixth day of May In the yeares of the Raigne of our Sou'aigine Lord James By the grace of god kinge of England ffrance and Jreland the ffifteenth and of Scotland the ffifty, the Defender of the ffaith &c 1617, I Robert Mather of westleighe in the County of Lancaster yeoman feellinge my selffe sick and diseased in bodie yet of a good and p^rfecte memorie Lawde and praise bee to the almightie for the same Doe constitute ordaine and make this my p^rsente Testamente and last will in manner and forme followinge viz. first and aboue all thinge J commend my soule into the mercifull Custodie of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christe by whose ffree mercy and grace I do assuredly truste to bee saued and my body to bee buried in Christian buriall* And as concerneinge all such goods as god hath geuen mee the vse and Custodie of, J will the same to bee bestowed in such manner and forme as heareafter in theis p^rsente is mençoned and Expressed That is to saie ffirst I giue and bequeath vnto Wil^m, John, Marie, Anne and Jenett p^rtington [Partington] Children of John p^rtington of Tildisley eu^rie one ij^s vj^d a peece And vnto Christopher, Elizabethe, Ellin and Wil^m Manne Children of James Manne of Tildisley afforesaid eu^rie one ij^s vj^d. And vnto Jenet, Katherin, Margrett, Elizabeth and Anne Liptrott dawghters of Wil^m Liptrott of westleighe aforesaid eu^rie one ij^s vj^d And vnto Richard Hawghton Nicholas and Anne Hawghton Children of James Hawghton late of Arburie deceased eu^rie one ij^s vj^d And vnto Symon Mather Geoffrey Mather Robert John James and Ellin Mather Children of Geoffrey Mather my Brother eu^rie one v^{li} equally to bee deuyded amongst them and the survyv^r and Survyvo^{rs} of them, and to bee paid vnto them at such tymes as they shall and doe come to and accomplishe the ffull age of Twenty and one yeares and in the meane tyme to bee vsed for the most gaine profit and aduantage of the said Children of my said brother Geoffrey Mather by my executors hereafter named, Itm I giue vnto Symon Mather a^ts Morton my base sonne the some of xiiij^{li} vj^s viij^d And yf my said sonne happen to dye before he shall or doe attaine to the age of xiiij yeares then and in such Case J doe geue and bequeath the same some of

* He was buried at Leigh Church, 4th June, 1617.

xij^{li} vj^s viij^d vnto the said sixe Children of my said brother Geoffrey Mather and to bee vsed and delyu^red [delivered] vnto them in such manner and forme as ys mente Concerneing there [their] other former Legacies, Jtm. J geue & bequeath vnto Elline Mather als Morton my base Dawghter the sume of vj^{li} xij^s viij^d And if she happen to dye before she doe or shall come to the age of xiiij yeares Then and [in] such Case J doe geue and bequeathe the same some of vj^{li} xij^s viij^d vnto the said sixe Children of my said brother Geoffrey Mather And to bee vsed and delyu^red [delivered] vnto them in such manner & forme as is mente concerninge there [their] other former Legacies, Jtm. J geue vnto Anne Mather nowe wyfe of the said Geoffrey Mather my Sister in lawe v^{li}. Jtm. J giue vnto Robert Whittell als Brownlowe Wifm Manne & Rob^te Whittell whom J am godfather vnto eu^re [every] one xij^d and vnto my said brother Geoffrey Mather J giue my truncke and vnto the said Anne my Cheeste [chest] Jtm. J gyve and bequeath all the Residue of my goods Cattells Chattells & Debts ouer and besydes the dischargeinge of my funerall expences and legacies hearein Conteyned & men^coned vnto the said Geoffrey Mather my Brother. Jtm. J constitute ordeyne and make the said Geoffrey Mather my brother and James Sorrowcoulede my True and Lawfull Executo^rs to execute p^rforme & ffulfill the same in all things as my Trust is in them aboue others.

Sealled signed & pupplished
in the p^rsence and sight of

Geoffrey Mather, Junior }
Robert Mather, Jū. & } [all good
John Whittells. } signatures]

[Signed with marks
probably intended for
the letters R. M.
and sealed with an
illegible seal.]

An indorsement in Latin to the effect that the Will was proved before David Yale, Doctor of Laws, Chancellor of the Supreme Court and Spiritual vicar of Thomas [Moreton] Bishop of Chester, 4th July 1618, by the executors in the Will named; a full and true inventory to be exhibited.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR OF THE REGISTER.

Mrs. Hannah Mather Crocker, author of "Observations on the Real Rights of Woman" and other works, was a daughter of Rev. Samuel and Mrs. Hannah (Hutchinson) Mather, and a granddaughter of Rev. Cotton Mather, author of the "Magnalia." She was born at Boston, June 27, 1752; married April 15, 1789, Joseph Crocker, H. C. 1774, born Feb. 24, 1749, died Nov. 13, 1797. She died at Roxbury, July 10, 1829. Her descent from John¹ Mather of Lancashire is through Thomas,² Rev. Richard³ Mather of Dorchester, Rev. Increase,⁴ Rev. Cotton,⁵ and Rev. Samuel⁶ Mather, her father. She left in manuscript a volume of "Reminiscences and Traditions of Boston," now in the possession of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society. From this volume we quote the following:

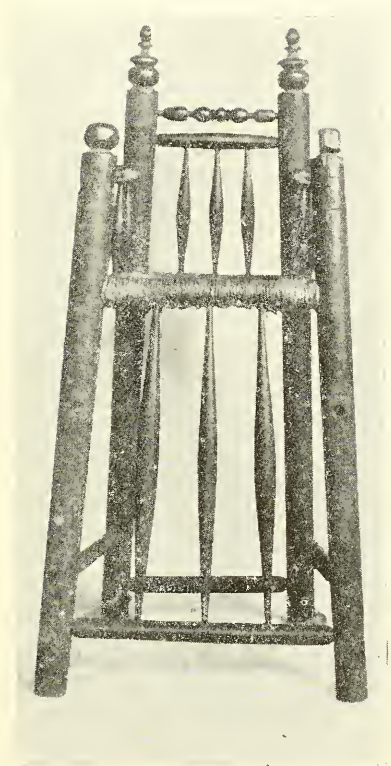
"Mr. Richard Mather was born in Lancaster in a small village called Lowton in the year 1596. The family can be traced to John. Thomas was his son, and Richard was son of Thomas.

"The chair in the Antiquarian room [*i.e.* the rooms of the American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.] belonged to Thomas. Richard sat in it when a child. He was married in 1624; his children that were born in Europe sat in the chair before he came to this country—Samuel, Timothy, Nathaniel, Joseph. The last named sat in it when he brought the chair to America. Eleazer and Increase were born in America. They both sat in the same chair. The chair descended to Increase, and all his children sat in the same. It came in line to Cotton Mather. His children all sat in the same. It descended to his son Samuel, and his children sat in the same chair. His youngest daughter [Hannah, the writer of these notes] was the only child that had any children, and she has had ten children sit in the chair, and several grandchildren.

"As the regular line of Mather has run out, she wished the chair to be deposited in the antiquarian rooms with the venerable shades, that those who come after her may look to the rock from whence they were hewn, and find an ancient seat to rest any chip of the old block. As she flatters herself, there may at some future day a sprig spring from the root Jesse, and the tribe of Levi return to their rest, when she is at rest in another world."

Rev. Increase Mather, in his "Life and Death of Mr. Richard Mather" (Cambridge, 1670), says: "There is in the Parish of Winwick, the County of Lancaster, a small country town or village called Lowton, in which village Richard Mather was born, Anno 1596. His parents, Thomas and Margaret Mather, were of ancient families in Lowton aforesaid, but by reason of some unhappy mortgages they were reduced to a low condition as to the World." He does not give the name of the father of Thomas.

His son, Rev. Cotton Mather, in his "Parentator: Remarkables of Increase Mather" (Boston, 1724), does not give even the name of the father of Richard. There was a Jeremiah Mather in Boston in 1681, between whom and Rev. Richard Mather no connection has been traced. See REGISTER, vol. 36, page 402.



THE MATHER CHAIR.

Said to have been brought to New England in
1635 by the Rev. Richard Mather.

SOME DEEDS OF THE MATHER FAMILY OF WEST LEIGH, LANCASHIRE, 1609 to 1632.

By the kindness of Mr. J. P. Earwaker, M.A., F.S.A., I have had an opportunity of examining a bundle of fifteen old documents relating to the Mathers of West Leigh, which belong to Mr. W. Ecroyd, of Lomeshaye, Nelson, Lancashire; and I have made the following abstracts of them. The seals appended to the deeds are of very little interest, being (with the exception of that to the bond of 3 February, 1617, which displays the arms of the Lancashire family of Byrom of Byrom Hall, differenced by a crescent) merely fanciful figures of birds and quadrupeds.

The signatures of Geoffrey Mather, Symond Mather, and Geoffrey Mather junior, are in the style of handwriting used by fairly educated persons in the seventeenth century; those of Sorocolds, Alexander Radcliffe and William Crompton suggest a higher standard of education. The tracings of the Mather signatures, which I send,* may be of service hereafter for purposes of identification when more is known of the early history of the family.

Symond Mather, of West Leigh, yeoman, whose will is printed in the REGISTER under date 1588, was the father of Geoffrey Mather the elder and Robert Mather of Newstead, co. Notts., who are named in the deeds. Robert returned to West Leigh and died in 1617; his will is also printed in the REGISTER.

Geoffrey Mather, the elder, married at Leigh Church, 12 December, 1591, Anne Parr, and their children, Symond (who was buried at Leigh 28 September, 1617), Geoffrey, Ellen, Robert, John and James, are all named in the deeds, they were baptized at Leigh Church, and the records of these baptisms will be found in "The Registers of the Parish of Leigh, Lancashire, 1558-1625, edited by J. H. Stanning, M.A., Vicar, 1882," together with the marriages of Margaret Partington, Jane Liptrott, and Ann Monne or Man, the sisters of Geoffrey Mather the elder. The marriage of another sister to James Haughton of Arbury in Winwick parish is not recorded in the Leigh registers.

The property owned by Geoffrey Mather passed at last to the Sorocold family. One of the Sorocolds is mentioned in Roger Lowe's Diary:—"March 1672-3. 7 friday night died Capt. [John] Sorrowcold an old cannibell that hath orethrowne many families but he hath now arrived at his one [own] place, abundance of gold and silver is found under his handes." ("Local Gleanings relating to

* They are preserved by the New-England Historic Genealogical Society.—EDITOR.

Lancashire and Cheshire," Vol. I., pp. 191, 215, Vol. II., p. 31, where some notices of the Sorocolds will be found.) There is an interesting remnant of the feudal system in the lease of 7 July, 1632.

I have added some genealogical memoranda of Gilbert Mather of the Soak in Hampshire, who was born in Lancashire in 1522, which were communicated to "Notes and Queries"; and an abstract of a Writ dated 1417, from the Risley Charters, which mentions Mathew and Richard Mather of Culcheth in Winwick parish, the name being written "le Madour."

I have not met with any armorial seal of the Mathers bearing the arms attributed to them; but in 1706 Abraham Mather and Richard Mather witnessed a deed to which the parties were Richard Clough of Kenyon, in the parish of Winwick, Chapman, of the one part, and Thomas, Viscount Fauconberg of the other part, and Clough used an oval seal bearing the letters A. M. above a heater shaped shield displaying *a chevron between three pairs of compasses*, which was evidently Abraham Mather's seal. The arms of the Carpenters' Company of London, granted 6 Edw. VI., A.D. 1552, were *Argent, a chevron engrailed between three pairs of compasses Sable*, and it is probable that this coat is intended to be represented on Abraham Mather's seal.

Abstracts of Deeds relating to Geoffrey Mather of West Leigh, co. Lancaster, yeoman.

20 December 41 Eliz. 1598. *Counterpart of a Lease* (not executed) by Geffraye Mather and Richard Arrowsmyth, of Westleigh, co. Lanc., yeomen, to Roberte Grenehalghe, of Lawton [Lowton] co. Lanc. yeoman, of 12 acres of land in West Leigh, called "the furthest eyes, the old medowe, the litle dam, and the ferdell crofte," 6 closes; and liberty during the term for Robert Grenehalgh to drive cattle through "the meane eyse nowe in the holdinge of Gefferay Strange and Thomas Corlus leading towards Lawton Common," as also through other ground of the said Geoffrey Mather "leading towards Westleigh mylne or leigh." Term 10 years from 25 Dec^r 1598. Consideration £55 fine and 10s. 6d. per annum. There is a recital of an Indenture dated 2 Sept. 20 Eliz. whereby James Scaresbrecke of Down Holland, co. Lanc. gent., and Anne his wife, demised the premises to Symond Mather deceased [who died 1588] father of the said Geoffrey for 60 years if the said Anne Scaresbrecke should so long live. There is also a recital of an Indenture dated 10 March 26 Eliz. whereby Symond Mather assigned the premises to the said Richard Arrowsmyth, apparently as a trustee for Symond.

28 April 1609. *Bond* from Geffrey Mather of West Leigh, yeoman, and Robert Mather of Newsteede, co. Nottingham, yeoman, to James Sorowcolde of Newton in Makerfield, co. Lanc., in £80, conditioned for the performance of covenants in an Indenture of even date. Witnesses to Geffrey Mather's signature: Jhon Assheton, Thomas Thelwall, Richard Grundy, and Roger Jameson. Witnesses to Robert Mather's signature: Rich: Vrmstonn, John Thomasson, Ja: Sorocoulde Jun^r, 1 die Martii 1610.

2 April 1615. *Demise* from James Massye of Hindley, co. Lanc., gent. to Geoffrey Mather of Westley, yeoman, for 400 years, at a peppercorn rent, of lands called Geoffrey Mather's house in West Leigh, being 9 closes called "the furmoste eyes, hough, newe meadowe, twoe marled earthes, Hampsons meadowe, the entrye, the greate dame meadow, and the fardyle crofte," 21 acres 3 roods, theretofore demised to James Sorocoulde for 400 years (2 other closes called Jeppe greasse and crofte by Greenes, 2½ acres, theretofore sold to Richard Arrowsmith and his heirs excepted). Witnesses: Christofer Stanynoghte, Christofer Strange.

12 April, 1615. *Deed Poll* by which Geoffrey Mather of West Leigh assigns to Thomas Parr of P[en]kett, co. Lanc. yeoman and Gerrard Johnson of co. Lanc. innkeeper, for the maintenance of Anne wife of the said Geoffrey and his children Ellen Mather, Robert Mather, John Mather, and James Mather, certain lands which James Massye of Hindley had leased to the said Geoffrey, called Geoffrey Mather's house in West Leigh with fields called "the furmost eyes, hough, new meadow, the entrye, the great dam meadow, and the fardyle croft, 21 acres 3 roods, theretofore let to James Sorocould, two parcels called Jeppe grease and Croft by Greenes (2½ acres) theretofore sold to Richard Arrowsmyth and his heirs excepted. Witnesses: Henry Byrom, Richard Arrowsmith's mark, Roger Ranicar's mark, Henry Raynolds.

30 May 1615. *Deed Poll*, in latin, by which James Massie of Hindley, co. Lanc., Esq. for good causes and in performance of the confidence reposed in him by Geoffrey Mather of Westleigh, yeoman, grants to Simon Mather, son and heir apparent of the said Geoffrey, and his heirs, a messuage in West Leigh in the occupation of Geoffrey and all those closes &c theretofore assured to James Sorocoulde of Pynnington, gent, and Richard Arrowesmith of West Leigh, husbandman. Ralph Southworth and Henry Byrom of Westleigh, gents. are appointed the attorneys to deliver seizin to Simon Mather. Witnesses: John Pattin(?), William Blackburne, Henry Asheton, Ja: Sorocoulde, Ja: Sorocoulde Jun^r, Robert Whittell. This is a copy attested by Ja: Sorocoulde and Ja: Sorocoulde Jun^r.

10 January 1615[-16.]. *Demise, by way of mortgage*, by Geoffrey Mather of West Leigh, yeoman, and Symon Mather of West Leigh, yeoman, son and heir of the said Geoffrey, to James Sorocoulde of Brockhurst in Pynnington [in the parish of Leigh] co: Lanc. yeoman, of the old meadow, the damm, the little damm meadow, the lower barn heys, the two widdows field and the foure acre, in all 18 acres of land in West Leigh, for 400 years; consideration £357. Witnesses: Rich. Vrmstonn, Rich. Man, Robt. Watmoughe, Henry Moese, Thomas Boydell, Ja: Sorocoulde Jun^r, George Sorocoulde, John Sorocoulde, Gouth^r Kirfote.

10 January 1615-16. *Demise, by way of mortgage*, by Geoffrey Mather of West Leigh yeoman, and Symon Mather of West Leigh yeoman his son and heir apparent to James Sorocoulde of Brockhurst in Pynnington, co. Lanc. yeoman, of 2 closes in West Leigh called "the Healey Eyes and the lytle cowe hey" 6 acres, for 3 years, to secure £30, to be repaid at the rate of £10 a year. A provision consolidates with this a demise by way of mortgage of even date. Witnesses: Rich: Urmstonn, Robert Watmoughe, Henry Moese, Thomas Boydell, Ja: Sorocoulde Jun^r, Rich Man.

3 February 1617[-18.]. *Bond* from Geoffrey Mather of West Leigh, yeoman, son of Geoffrey Mather, of West Leigh, yeoman, to James Sorocoulde, of Brockhurst in Pennington, yeoman, in £70, for the performance by Geoffrey Mather the father of covenants in an Indenture dated 10 Jan.

1615[-16]. Witnesses: Robert Watmoughe, Gowther Kirfoote, Thomas Corles, Ja: Sorocoulde, Jun^r.

1 May 1618. *Demise, by way of mortgage*, by Geoffrey Mather the elder, of Weasley, yeoman, and Geoffrey Mather the younger, his son and heir apparent, to James Sorocoulde, of Brockhurst in Pynnington, yeoman, of Higher Barne Hey in West Leigh, 3 acres, for 400 years; consideration £50:5:6. Witnesses: Richard Vrmstonn, Nycholas Lythgo, George Sorocoulde.

1 May 1618. *Bond* from Geoffrey Mather the elder and Geoffrey Mather the younger, to James Sorocoulde, in £80, for the performance of covenants in an Indenture of even date. Witnesses: Rich: Vrmstonn, Nycholas Lythgo, George Sorocoulde.

20 March 1620[21]. *Defeazance* of lands in West Leigh, between James Sorocolde, of Brockhurst in Pynnington, gent., Rauffe Sorocolde, of Newton in Makerfield, co. Lanc., gent., and Robert Watmough, of Lawton [Lowton] co. Lanc., yeoman, of the one part, and Geoffrey Mather, of Westleigh, gent., and Geoffrey Mather his son and heir apparent of the other part. Reciting an Indenture of bargain and sale of even date to Ralph Sorocoulde and Robert Watmough and their heirs [as trustees] by the appointment of James Sorocoulde, of "the ould medowe, the dam, the litle dam medowe, the twoe barne heyces, the twoe widowes fields, the foure acre, a parcel of land lying upon the north side of the great cove hey, and one parcel in the west end of the Henley Eyes (one little parcel of land and one usual way leading from the dwelling of the said Geoffrey to Strange Common excepted). And reciting that the lands were formerly granted to James Sorocold his executors &c by lease for a great number of years, it was agreed that if the said Geoffrey Mather or his heirs should pay to James Sorocoulde either £24:1:6 for each acre, or a certain specified sum for each field (amounting in the whole to £466:3:2) that as such payments were made such parts of the premises should be reconveyed by James Sorocoulde, Rauffe Sorocoulde and Robert Watmough to Geoffrey Mather &c. Witnesses: Alexander Radclyffe, Rich: Vrmstonn, Richard Grundy, W^m Crompton.

20 March 1620[-21]. *The Counterpart*, witnessed by Henry Byrom, Alexander Radclyffe, Wm. Crompton.

15 June 1621. *Deed of feoffment*, between Geoffrey Mather, of Westleigh, gent., and Geoffrey Mather his son and heir apparent of the one part, and Richard Urmeston, of Pynnington, gent., and William Crompton, of Bedford [in the parish of Leigh] co. Lanc. yeoman, of the other part, of lands in West Leigh, to the use of Geoffrey Mather the elder for life, and after his death as to one half to the use of Anne his wife for her life, and as to the other half and the reversion of the former half to the use of Geoffrey Mather the son, his heirs and assigns. Power of Geoffrey the father to grant by deed or will an annuity of 40 shillings, charged on the lands, for any future wife or wives of his (one Alice Swan of Pynnington only excepted) for her or their life or lives. Witnesses: Roger Ranicker's mark, Richard Grundy, Christopher Strang, Richard Man's mark. Memorandum endorsed that on 16 June 1621 possession was given to Richard Urmeston and William Crompton in the presence of the same witnesses.

4 March 1624-5. *Deed of feoffment*, between Geoffrey Mather, of West Leigh, yeoman, Geoffrey Mather, of West Leigh, yeoman, his son and heir apparent, and Ann Mather, wife of Geoffrey the father, of the one part, and George Sorocold, of Brockhurst, yeoman, of the other part, of lands in

West Leigh; consideration £112. Alexander Radclyffe and William Crompton appointed attorneys to deliver seizin. Witnesses to the signatures of Geoffrey Mather the father and Geoffrey Mather the son: Alex: Radcliffe, Thomas Corles son of James, Robert Tickle, William Tickle, Ja: Sorocolde. Witnesses to the signature (mark) of Anne Mather: Henry Byrom, Alex: Radcliffe, Roberte Watmoughe, Ja: Sorocolde, Wm: Crompton, Jo: Sorocolde, Thomas fforbor. Memorandum endorsed that on 30 April 1625 seizin of the lands was given by Alexander Radcliffe and William Crompton to George Sorocold in the presence of Henry Byrom, Ja: Sorocolde, Robert Watmoughe, Geffrey Mather [the elder] Thomas fforbor, Jo: Sorocolde. Memorandum endorsed that on 7 July 1632, seizin of a close of land, parcel of the within mentioned lands was delivered by Alexander Radcliffe and William Crompton to George Sorocold in the presence of: Richard Grundy, Robert Watmoughe, Geffrey Mather [the elder] Christopher Strange Junior's mark, Jeffrey Mather [the younger].

7 July 1632. *Counterpart of a Lease*, by George Sorocolde, of Ashton in Makerfield, co. Lanc. yeoman, to Geoffrey Mather, of West Leigh, yeoman, for the lives of Geoffrey Mather the elder, Geoffrey Mather the younger, and James Mather another son of Geoffrey the elder, of a messuage in West Leigh, and the little cow hey, the higher barn hey, land situate at the east end of the Henley eyes, land at south east corner of the great cow hey, 2 closes called Pingotts, the rood land situate in a meadow called Hart's meadow; in all 15 acres 1 rood large measure; rent 22s. 10½d. per annum. There is a covenant by Geoffrey Mather during the term that he his executors or assigns will "beare carry and showe one muskett peece wth the furniture thereunto belonging when & as often as the s^d George Sorocoulde his heirs or assigns shall be comāded to showe a muskett with the furniture thereof as aforesaid for such landes as the said Geffrey Mather the father & Geffrey Mather the sonne have sould unto James Sorocould the late father of the said George and unto him the said George, hee the said George Sorocold his heirs & assignes upon his and their costs & chardges fyndyng & provyding from tyme to tyme the said muskett peece & furniture aforesaid during the said terme." Witnesses: Henry Byrom, Richard Grundy, Alex: Radcliffe, Roberte Watmoughe, Wm. Crompton, Jeffrey Mather Jun^r.

Extracts from the Parish Registers of Leigh, in the County of Lancaster.

The Rev. J. H. Stanning, M.A., Vicar of Leigh, has kindly sent for publication the following extracts relating to the Mather family, in continuation of the Mather entries in his "Registers of the Parish of Leigh, Lancashire, from February 1558 to March 1625," printed in 1882.

Marriages.

- 1627 May 15. John Mather & Ellen Cowdall.
- 1627-8 February 11. John Mather & Katherine Partington.
- 1632 November 10. Jeffrey Mather & Ellen Arrosmyth.
- 1637 August 1. James Mather & Elizabeth Strange.
- 1638-9 January 27. Symond Mather & Margaret Flightwood.
- 1639 July 3. John Mather & Margaret Smith.
- 1639-40 February 8. Richard Grundie & Ellin Mather.

Burials.

- 1625 April 7. John Mather de Atherton.
- 1626 May 13. Johu Mather de Bedford.

- 1626-7 Jan^y 12. ux[or] William Liptrott de Westleigh.
 1630 April 10 [20?]. John Mather de Astley.
 " October 10. Jeffrey Mather al[ia]s Collier.
 1631 June 24. James Mather de Pinington.
 1638 October 16 [?] James Mann of Tilesley.
 1639 March 29. Jefferie Mather of Westley.
 1644 July 25. James Mather of Tildsley.
 1665 April 22. Gentkin Mather de Abram.
 1666 May 12. Abram Mather de Radcliffe parish.
 " May 20. A da[ughter] of Henry Mather de Pinington.
 1666-7 March 20. Margery Mather, widdow de Tildsley.
 1668 July 11. Simon Mather de Lowton.
 Sep. 20. John Mather of Westleigh.
 1671-2 March 10. Richard son of Richard Mather of Shakerley.

Gilbert Mather of Soak, Hampshire.

The following genealogical memoranda were communicated to *Notes & Queries* (8th S. IV. October 14, 1893) by M^r W. D. Macray. They occur in the calendar prefixed to a Roman Breviary, printed at Lyons in 1556, now in the Bodleian Library, and have been inserted by one Gilbert Mather. The writer's own name, Gilbert Mather, occurs in several parts of the volume, which, in 1566, was possessed by one Ambrose Barnabye.

- Jan. 13. 1544. I was maryed at Eastone
 Jan. 20. 1561. Gilbertus Mather filius meus natus fuit.
 Feb. 9. 1551. Nata fuit Alicia filia mea apud Chilbolton.
 Feb. 26. 1542. I cam[e] fyrst to Winchester.
 March 19. 1547. Natus fuit Thomas Mather filius meus
 March 26. 1548. Sepultus fuit predictus Thomas.
 April 5. 1539. I cam[e] fyrst to Chippen[ham]
 April 15. 1554. Natus fuit Henricus filius meus.
 April 17. [or 19] 1546. Natus fuit Thomas Mather senior filius meus.
 June 3. 1553. I toke possessyone of my howse in the Soke [Hampshire].
 June 15. 1522. I was borne at Weryngtone in Lancashire
 July 6. 1568. Natus fuit Gilbertus Mather filius meus
 July 10. 1539. I was bounde prentise in Norwiche.
 Sept. 20. 1553. I cam[e] into my howse in the Soke fyrst to dwell
 after I had bowght the same.
 Sept. 27. 1549. I cam[e] to Chilboltone [Hampshire] to dwell.
 Oct. 3. 1545. I was sworne tenante at Chilboltone.
 Nov. 12. 1549. Nata fuit Elizabeth filia mea apud Chilboltone.
 Dec. 15. 1546. I cam[e] into the Soke to dwell there, being tenante to
 Richard Harrold.

From the Risley (co. Lancaster) Charters.

16 August, 5 Henry V. (A.D. 1417) WRIT to the Sheriff of Lancashire commanding him to attach James son of Ric. de Radcliff of Radcliff to answer Nicholas de Risley of Risley, wherefore he with Ric. de Radelyf of Radelyf, Armiger, Oliver de Entwissel of Bury, Gentilman, John de Rothwell of Radelyf, yoman, John Atkinson of Pilkington, yoman, Thomas Acson of Pilkington, yoman, Wm. le Walker of Radelyf, yoman, *Mathew le Madour of Culcheth*, husbandman, *Ric. le Madour of Culcheth*, husbandman, and Roger de Hertleghe of Culcheth, by force and arms broke the close of the said Nicholas at Risley and him took and imprisoned at Radelyf and took away four cows and other enormities then did.











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